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Charles John Clarke

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AN E C D O T E S

O F

EMINENT PAINTERS

I N *S P A I N*,

During the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries;

W I T H

CURSORY REMARKS

U P O N T H E

P R E S E N T S T A T E O F A R T S

I N T H A T K I N G D O M.

B Y R I C H A R D C U M B E R L A N D.

I N T W O V O L U M E S.

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V O L. I.

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L O N D O N:

P R I N T E D F O R J. W A L T E R, C H A R I N G - C R O S S.

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M. DCC. LXXXII.



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A N E C D O T E S  
O F  
E M I N E N T P A I N T E R S  
I N S P A I N, &c.

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**S**PAIN has given birth to so many eminent Painters, of whom there is no memorial in the rest of Europe, and abounds with so many admirable examples of their art, dispersed in churches, convents and palaces, where the curiosity of modern travellers rarely carries them, that I persuade

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myself it will not be unacceptable to the public to have some account of men and works so little known and yet so highly worthy to be recorded. I am not aware that this has been professedly attempted by any Spanish writer, except by *Palomino*; who in an elaborate treatise on the Art of Painting, in two folio volumes, has inserted the lives of two hundred and thirty-three Painters and Sculptors, who flourished in Spain from the time of *Ferdinand the Catholic* to the conclusion of the reign of *Philip the Fourth*; of these materials I have principally availed myself in the following sheets, but not without due attention to other authorities, that interpose accounts differing

differing from his, or extend to particulars, which he has failed to enumerate. He is said to have written with a competent knowledge of his subject, as an art, of which he was himself a professor; and in rules for the practice of painting he is very diffusive: If he had been more communicative or entertaining in those matters, for which I chiefly consulted him, I might have needed less apology for the present publication: Many particulars however have been furnished to me from tradition, which help out the sterility and dryness of his catalogue; and I must not omit to acknowledge the assistance I drew from the treatise of *Pacheco*, a book now become

extremely rare and hardly to be obtained. I know there was an English abridgement of Palomino's Painters published in the year 1739, but the original is in very few hands ; so that, unless some Spanish biographer shall speedily be found with public spirit to engage in the task of rescuing the fame of his ingenious countrymen from approaching extinction, their histories at least will soon be lost, whatever may be the fate of their works. The world is in possession of many memoirs of the artists of Italy, France and Flanders ; and the Painters, who distinguished themselves in England, have by happy fortune found a biographer, whose entertaining talents

lents will secure to them a reception with posterity; whilst of all the Painters, to whose memory I have dedicated this slight attempt, scarce a name is heard without the limits of Spain, except those of *Velasquez*, *Murillo*, and *Ribeira*: The paintings of the latter it is true are very generally known, many excellent performances of his being dispersed through Europe: Some respectable remains of *Velasquez* are to be found in Italy, but the principal exertions of his pencil were reserved for his own country, and the Sovereign, who entertained him in his service; these, we may naturally suppose, can never be extracted: And as for *Murillo*, al-

though some pieces of his have in time past been extracted from Seville, yet I think I may venture to say, that not many of them, which pass under his name, are legitimate; and in a less proportion can we find amongst such, as are true pictures, any of so capital a rank, as to impart a competent idea of his extraordinary merit.

The candid reader will observe, that I do not profess to give the Lives of the Painters, who are treated of in this catalogue, for which my materials do not suffice; nor shall I hazard many criticisms upon their respective works, for which more science would be requisite than I can pretend to; still I hope there will be found sufficient

cient novelty to amuse such of my readers, as can endure to hear of paintings, as they strike the feelings of an ordinary observer, without presuming to dissect them in the learned jargon of a Virtuoso: It will be remembered therefore that I offer nothing more to the public than Anecdotes of the Eminent Painters, who have flourished in Spain during the two centuries last past; and in this description I include all such illustrious foreigners, as have resorted to Spain for the display of their talents under protection of the Princes or Nobles of that kingdom; these are a pretty numerous class, and in treating of them I shall study to avoid repeating

what may have been better told by others ; but even of these perhaps some local anecdotes will occur, which may at least be supplementary to the accounts already in existence. My residence in Spain, and some advantages incident to my peculiar situation there, gave me repeated access to every thing I wished to see ; almost every religious foundation throughout the kingdom contains a magazine of art ; in resorting to these nothing will be found, of which a stranger can complain, unless of the gloominess of some of the edifices, and the unfavourable lights, in which many capital paintings are disposed : In private houses it is not unusual to discover

discover very fine pictures in neglect and decay; thrown aside amongst the rubbish of cast-off furniture; whether it be, that the possessor has no knowledge of their excellence, or thinks it below his notice to attend to their preservation; but how much soever the Spaniards have declined from their former taste and passion for the elegant arts, I am persuaded they have in no degree fallen off from their national character for generosity, which is still so prevalent amongst them, that a stranger, who is interestedly disposed to avail himself of their munificence, may in a great measure obtain whatever is the object of his praise and admiration:

tion: As for the royal collections at Madrid, the Escorial and elsewhere, he will meet a condescension so accommodated to his curiosity, that the one is as little likely to be exhausted as the other; the facility of access to every palace in possession of His Catholic Majesty is only to be equalled by the gratification it produces.

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THE Arts, which revived in Italy during the 14th century, did not reach Spain till the time of *Ferdinand the Catholic*; *Antonio Del Rincon*, a native of *Guadalaxara*,

*ara*, may be considered as the father of the Spanish school; he studied in Rome, and, returning to his native country, was taken into the service of *Ferdinand*, who bestowed on him the Order of *Santiago*, and made him Groom of his Chamber. There are two portraits of *Ferdinand* and *Isabella*, painted by him, still to be seen at *Toledo*, in the church of *San Juan de los Reyes*, and several pictures by his hand perished in the fire, that destroyed the palace of the *Pardo* in the year 1608. This artist died in the year 1500.

The unhappy catastrophe of *Torrigiano*, the Florentine, followed in the year 1522: After having enriched the cities of *Andalusia* with

with several pieces of sculpture, not unworthy the disciple and rival of *Michael Angelo*, he was condemned to death by the Inquisition, and expired in the prison of *Seville* under the horrors of an approaching execution: The story is as follows; *Torrigiano* had undertaken to carve a Madona and child of the natural size, at the order of a certain Spanish Grandee; it was to be made after the model of one, which he had already executed; and promise was given him of a reward proportioned to the merit of his work. His employer was one of the first Grandees of Spain, and *Torrigiano*, who conceived highly of his generosity, and well knew what his

his

his own talents could perform, was determined to outdo his former work; he had passed great part of his life in travelling from kingdom to kingdom in search of employment, and, flattering himself with the hope, that he had now at last found a resting-place after all his labours, the ingenious artist with much pains and application compleated the work, and presented to his employer a matchless piece of sculpture, the utmost effort of his art; the Grandee surveyed the striking performance with great delight and reverence; applauded *Torrignano* to the skies; and, impatient to possess himself of the enchanting idol, forthwith sent to demand it;

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at the same time, to set off his generosity with a better display, he loaded two lacqueys with the money, that was to defray the purchase; the bulk at least was promising, but when *Torrigiano* turned out the bags, and found the specie nothing better than a parcel of brass maravedi, amounting only to the paltry sum of thirty ducats, vexation at this sudden disappointment of his hopes, and just resentment for what he considered as an insult to his merit, so transported him, that, snatching up his mallet in a rage, and not regarding the perfection, or (what to him was of more fatal consequence) the sacred character of the image he had made; he

broke it suddenly in pieces, and dismissed the lacqueys with their load of farthings to tell the tale : They executed their errand too well. The Grandee in his turn fired with shame, vexation and revenge, and assuming, or perhaps conceiving, horror for the sacrilegious nature of the act, presented himself before the Court of Inquisition, and impeached the unhappy artist at that terrible tribunal ; it was in vain that poor *Torrigiano* urged the right of an author over his own creation ; Reason pleaded on his side, but Superstition sat in judgement ; the decree was death with torture. The Holy Office lost its victim ; for *Torrigiano* expired under the horrors,

rors, not under the hands of the executioner: That he was of a fierce impatient spirit we may well believe from what is related of his maiming the great *Michael Angelo* by a violent blow on the face; the heretical reader perhaps will think this blow a more inexcusable, offence, than that, for which he suffered; and an enthusiast in the arts will scarce lament the punishment, which by a just transition fell upon him; for my part, I lament both his offence and his punishment; the man, who could be so frantic with passion, as in the person of *Michael Angelo* to deface one of the divinest works of heaven, might easily be tempted to demolish his

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own; and it has been generally observed, that hearts, so prone to anger, have on occasion been as susceptible of apprehension and fear; it is to be supposed, that *Torrigiano's* case was not better in the eyes of the Holy Office for his having been resident in England and employed by King *Henry the Eighth*: Whether they considered him as tinctured with the heresy of that Royal apostate does not appear; I am inclined to believe he more resembled Henry in temper than in opinion: At least, if we are to credit his assault on *Michael Angelo* and try him on that action; since the days of Diomed few mortals ever launched a more impious blow.

The arts, being thus transplanted from Italy into Spain, found a ready naturalization in a country, then abounding with genius : The province of Andalusia took the lead on this occasion, and has in all times been productive of extraordinary talents ; it was the cradle of most of the Spanish painters ; it's natives continue to be remarked for quick and volatile parts, differing much in manners and disposition from the Castilians. Certain it is that Spain has many local qualifications for becoming a nursery of Painters, which other countries are in want of : It enjoys a clear and vivid sky, with a dry and healthy air, favourable to the preservation if not

to the production of works of art ; the human countenance there is in general of a grave historical cast ; the intermixture of the Jewish and Moorish tribes have marked the lower classes with a strong peculiarity of features ; the forms of the children, till they attain the age of eight or ten, are good, and oftentimes their faces beautiful ; the eyes of the women black and piercing, and, as they use much action when they converse, and are universally addicted to the Moorish modes of dancing, which almost every peasant can accompany with his voice and instrument, their groupes become extremely picturesque : To these may be added the character of their

dress, particularly that of Andalusia, which both in male and female is uncommonly antique and graceful; the cloak alone may be folded twenty different ways for different applications, and each attitude presents a specimen of drapery worthy the study of an academy. The Painters have availed themselves of this, Italians as well as natives, and the *Capa* will be found frequently upon their canvasses, even where the scene does not lie in Spain. In speaking of Spain, as a country favourable to Painters, I think it is just to except painters of landscapes; in these it has neither excelled nor abounded; and the general want of trees and verdure

readily

readily supplies a reason : Groves and rivers and scattered habitations, emblematic of rural tranquillity, which furnish the most pleasing subjects to the imagination of the scenist, are there but thinly spread ; the face of Nature is adest and frowning.

The Emperor *Charles*, though not very cordially attached to his Spanish subjects, nor over partial to their country, cultivated notwithstanding the genius of their Painters ; and this he effected not only by sending them to study under the Italian masters, but also by inviting the Italian masters into Spain ; the fertile genius of *Titiano* might have been alone sufficient to illuminate a kingdom,

and there were many others in the like employ ; *Julio* and *Alexandro*, Italians of the school of *Juan de Udine*, a disciple of *Rafael*, were artists of great eminence ; *Charles* employed them in a royal work, the beautifying the Alhambra of Grenada ; they enriched the Hospital of *Santiago*, in the city of *Ubeda*, with many noble paintings, and the famous Duke of *Alva* found employment for their talents.

*Alonso Berruguete*, a Castilian, educated in the school of the great *Michael Angelo*, the friend and contemporary of *Andrea del Sarto*, *Baccio Bandinello* and others, returned into Spain an eminent proficient in painting, sculpture  
and

and architecture; deeply skilled in the theory of his art, he exhibited to the world a new system of human symmetry and proportion, differing at once from the rules of *Pomponio Gaurico*, *Philippo de Borgona* and *Alberto Durer*, over whom he finally triumphed both in principle and practice; leaving many illustrious monuments of his excellence in all the branches of his study, both at Madrid, the Pardo and the Alhambra of Grenada; for which he was suitably honoured and rewarded by the Emperor *Charles*, and died full of years and replete with fame and fortune, in 1545, in the city of Madrid. I should observe in this place, that in the

choir of the cathedral in *Toledo*, there are an innumerable number of beautiful carvings by *Berruguete*; *Philip de Borgona* executed one side of the choir, and *Berruguete* the other.

The success of this artist was an encouragement to others, and the school of *Michael Angelo* was eagerly resorted to by *Baptista Bergamo* and *Gaspar Becerra*, of *Baiza* in *Andalusia*; these illustrious students returned together to Spain, and were immediately taken into the protection of the Emperor. The arts, which *Rincon* had transplanted into Spain, which *Berruguete* had so prosperously advanced, they (but especially *Becerra*) pushed into maturity ;

rity; this man, who even in Rome (at that period in her zenith) had attracted general admiration, excelled in sculpture, equally as in painting; in the latter art his mode of colouring, and his management in the relief of his figures, greatly improved the practice of the Spanish school, and taught his countrymen to look upon their first manner with contempt: As a statuary, he seems to have found ample field for the exercise of his talents; the altars now began to wear a different form; instead of the distorted barbarous shapes of Gothic masonry, crucifixes, saints and virgins now took place, in all the grande gusto of *Michâel Angelo*. The churches

churches of *Astorga*, *Zamora*, *Burgos* and *Salamanca* contended which should first engage him in their service; he executed all these commissions to the satisfaction of the Fathers, and, when they had equipped his images in wide hoops and furbelowed petticoats, they applauded the artist, and adored his manufacture. It was not so easy to satisfy the caprice of *Isabella* of *Valois*; she commissioned him to carve a wooden image of our Lady of the *Solidad*, for the convent of *San Francisco de Paulo*; *Becerra* received her Majesty's commands, and addressed himself with diligence to the work; after the labour of a year he compleated an  
 image

image to his intire satisfaction ; he presented it to the Queen with an assurance of success, but in vain ; his image did not reach the ideas of the Queen ; the expression did not please her ; and he was commanded not only to make a better, but to take less time in making it : He executed his order a second time, and produced an image to the admiration of all beholders ; even the Fathers of the Convent acknowledged it to be a perfect and exact representation of nature ; it was again submitted to the Queen, and again condemned for falling short of her Majesty's conceptions of our Lady of the *Solidad* ; the unhappy artist was threatened to be superseded

seded in the commission by some  
 abler master; but, anxious to pre-  
 serve his pre-eminence, and ful-  
 fil her Majesty's ideas, he again  
 applied himself with ardour to the  
 task; he racked his imagination  
 without ceasing to frame some vi-  
 sage, and devise some form, that  
*Isabella* might confess bore a re-  
 semblance to the image in her  
 mind; Wearied out with the tor-  
 menting investigation, the ex-  
 hausted artist one day fell into a  
 profound sleep; whilst this was  
 passing, he saw, or thought he saw,  
 a female figure presenting herself  
 at the feet of his bed; he looked,  
 in hopes perhaps to have ob-  
 tained a model for his image; but  
 the lady unluckily concealed her  
 face;

face ; at length, addressing him in the most courteous stile, she desired him to open his eyes, get out of bed, and take the log, that he would find burning on his hearth, and set to work upon it, and he would find an image to his mind ; *Becerra*, overjoyed, lost no time in following her advice ; he found the log, quenched it ; 'twas a convenient piece of timber ; and with this supernatural aid completed a figure to the heart's content of *Isabella* ; the Monks, whose prayers assisted the execution, received the miraculous image with joy ; it was erected on the high altar of the convent in *Valladolid*, with all proper ceremonials fitting the solemnity ; it

was

was habited in the weeds of *Queen Joanna*, widow of *Philip the Handsome*, and remains to this day, not indeed a monument of *Becerra's* art (for no part of that is to be seen) but of his patience; and proves, that, however eminent might be his talent for sculpture, if it had not been for his faculty of dreaming, he would have made a shameful shipwreck of his fame. Happy had it been for poor *Torrigiano*, if he had had *Becerra's* discretion, or *Becerra's* dreams.

*Antonio Flores*, and *Fernando Gallegos* (the one of Seville and the other of Salamanca) were Painters of great merit, and much in the favour of the Emperor, particularly

particularly the latter; they formed themselves in the school of *Alberto Durero*, and *Gallegos* copied the manner of his master so closely, that many of his pictures cannot be distinguished from *Durero's*: Some of his works remain at Salamanca, but most of them so impaired by time, and by the cloister where they hang, that they are become scarce visible. Charles the Vth also brought with him into Spain, out of Italy, the celebrated *Pedro Campana*, a Fleming by birth, who had studied twenty years in the school of *Rafael Urbin*: When Charles made his entry into *Bologna*, in the year 1530, *Pedro Campana* devised the grand triumphal arch, under  
which

which he passed: *Campana* soon after came into Spain, residing chiefly at Seville. In the chapel of the Purification in that city there is still to be seen a capital painting by this master on the subject of the ceremony, to which the chapel is dedicated; a Descent from the Cross and a Nativity, both celebrated pictures, are yet to be seen in the church of *San Lorenzo*; and in the convent of *San Pablo*, in a small chapel adjoining to the Chapter-house, there is a picture by *Campana* on the subject of the Circumcision; all which are much extolled by *Pacheco* in his treatise on the Art of Painting. *Campana* died in the year 1570 at Brussels, where his

portrait

portrait is still to be seen in the Consistory.

It was this visit made by the Emperor Charles to Bologna in 1530, which brought about an event of the first importance in the history of the arts in Spain; I mean the introduction of the works of *Titiano*, and some time after of *Titiano* himself; that great master was in Bologna, when Charles made his entry, and like Charles was then in the full lustre of his fame; scarce a character of eminence in Europe, but was to be found on the canvass of *Titiano*; to be delivered to posterity in the glowing colours of his pencil seemed an object of general ambition, and in some degree an anticipation

of immortality ; *Alonso de Ferrara*, *Federico Gonzaga* (Duke of Mantua) *Francisco Maria*, (Duke of Urbino) the *Marquis del Basto*, *Pescara*, *Alva*, *Francisco Sforza*, *Antonio de Leyva*, *Diego de Mendoza*, *Arretino*, *Bembo*, *Fracaſtorio*, *Ferdinand* (King of the Romans) and his ſon *Maximilian*, both afterwards Emperors, the Popes *Sixtus IV*, *Julius II*, and *Paulus III*, the great Emperor *Soliman* and the Sultaneſs *Roſa* were amongſt the illuſtrious perſonages, who had been painted by *Titiano* : The Emperor ſate to him at Bologna, as he paſſed through that city in the year above mentioned ; he was in the meridian of life and, though he could not be ſaid to inherit the  
beauty

beauty of *Philip the Handsome*, he was nevertheless of a majestic comely aspect; the portrait pleased him well and, though so weak an ingredient as vanity was not to be found in Charles's composition, yet he was not insensible to impressions, and henceforward determined never to commit his person to any other limner than *Titiano*. He was a lover of arts, not an enthusiast; he knew the force of their effects, and revered them for their power, without being captivated by their charms; to men of eminence he was liberal without familiarity; in short, his affections in this particular, as in every other, were directed regularly to their object by reason, not driven impetuously by constitution

or passion: Upon this principle he rewarded *Titiano* for his portrait with a thousand golden scudi, consulting thereby no less his own magnificence, than the artist's merit; he paid him 200 ducats for a small piece; and, upon *Titiano's* presenting him with a picture of the Annunciation, for which his countrymen the Venetians had refused to pay him more than 200 scudi, Charles rewarded him for the present with a thousand. He invited *Titiano* into Spain, and pressed him to comply, using many promises and some intreaties; anxious to wrest the palm of glory from the brows of his rival *Francis* in arts, as well as arms, he perceived there was no other living

merit

merit but *Titiano's*, which he could oppose to that of *Leonardo da Vinci*. *Carlos Rodolfi*, the biographer of *Titiano*, says he never came into Spain, but he is mistaken; it was not however till the year 1548 that he complied with the Emperor's invitation; from that period till 1553 he resided in Spain; during this residence he composed many admirable works, and received many princely rewards; Charles gave him the key, the order of *Santiago* at Brussels, and in 1553 constituted him a Count Palatine of the empire at Barcelona by an instrument worthy to be recorded; viz. Carolus V. divinâ favente clementiâ Romanorum Imperator augustus ac Rex Germa-

niæ, Hispaniarumque spectabili  
nostro et imperii sacri fidei dilecto  
*Titiano de Vecellis*, sive equiti au-  
rato, et sacri Lateranensis palatii,  
aulæque nræ et imperialis consisto-  
rii comiti gratiam Cæsaream et  
omne bonum.

Cum nobis semper mos fuerit,  
postquam ad hujus Cæsariæ digni-  
tatis celsitudinem divis auspiciis  
evec̃ti fuerimus, vos potissimum,  
qui singulari fide et observantiâ  
erga nos et sacrum Romanum im-  
perium præditi egregiis moribus,  
eximiis virtutibus et ingenuis ar-  
tibus industriâq; clari et excel-  
lentes habiti sunt præ cæteris be-  
nevolentiâ, favore et gratiâ nostrâ  
prosequi. Attendentes igitur singu-  
larem tuam erga nos, et sacrum  
Romanum

Romanum imperium fidem et observantiam, ac præter illas egregias virtutes tuas et ingenii dotes, exquisitam illam pingendi et ad vivum effigiendarum imaginum scientiam, quâ quidem arte talis nobis visus es, ut meritò hujus sæculi Apelles dici merearis, &c. Motu igitur proprio et certâ nostrâ scientiâ, animo deliberato, sano quoque Principum, Comitum, Baronum, Procerum et aliorum nostrorum et Imperii sacri dilectorum accidente consilio, et de nostræ Cæsareæ potestatis plenitudine te prænominatum *Titianum* sacri Lateranensis palatii, aulæq; nræ, et Imperialis consistorii comitem fecimus, creavimus, ereximus, et comitatus Palatini ti-

titulo clementer insignivimus :  
 Prout tenore præsentium faci-  
 mus, creamus, erigimus, attoli-  
 mus et insignimus ac aliorum  
 Comitum Palatinorum numero  
 et consortu gratanter aggregamus  
 et adscribimus, &c.

These favours alarmed the jealousy of the nobles both of Germany and Spain, but their envy drew no other answer from Charles, than that he had many nobles in his empire and but one *Titiano*; the artist, who was at some distance, employed upon a picture, overheard the retort with conscious satisfaction and, as he made his reverence to the Emperor, dropt a pencil on the floor; the courteous monarch took it up and, delivering it to him

him confounded by this second mark of his condescension, added, *that to wait on Titiano was a service for an Emperor.* Charles did not only grace this eminent artist with the splendid ornaments and titles above mentioned, he gave him more solid marks of his favour, appointing him rents in Naples of two hundred ducats annually each, besides a munificent compensation for every picture he executed: *Palomino* says, that Charles regarded the possession of a capital piece of *Titiano* more than he did the acquisition of a new province to his dominion; but *Palomino* was a painter, and more familiar with the pictures of *Titiano*, than with the politics

itics of the Emperor : This would have been a caprice unworthy of any prince ; but Charles's character was not the sport of caprice ; whilst to the very moment of his life, when he resigned his dominions, it was evident that ambition was his ruling passion ; had he been capable of that preference, which *Palomino* ascribes to him, he would hardly have taken such pains to the last hour of his reign to persuade his brother Ferdinand to make a sacrifice of his succession of the empire, nor have retired into the unfurnished cell of his convent with his puppets and his birds without one consolatory remembrance of his favourite author to cheer his solitude, or to enflame

his

his devotion : I can hardly be persuaded, that Charles's abdication of his empire was any proof of caprice ; he plainly enough perceived his health was gone, and he was not willing that his fame should follow it.

*Titiano* had quitted Spain, before Philip took possession of the throne ; the arts however had rapidly advanced : Charles had made some improvement to the royal edifices, but all with a view to accommodation rather than magnificence ; he had fronted the old palace of Madrid, beautified and repaired the venerable Alhambra of Grenada, planted and disposed the walks and avenues of Aranjuez in the Flemish taste, and

and built the Pardo at two leagues distance from the capital in a retired situation and in a stile by no means imperial; it is a square building of moderate dimensions, flanked with four small towers at the angles, and environed with a foss exactly on the scale of a nobleman's seat in his native country: Superstition soon engaged Philip in a more important undertaking and, having made a vow upon the victory of St. Quintin to dedicate a church and monastery to *San Lorenzo*, he began in the midst of a solitary and frightful desert to displace the rocks and compel them to take the shape of an edifice: on the feast-day of St. George with much temporal

temporal and spiritual pomp he laid the foundation-stone of the monastery of *San Lorenzo*, called the *Escorial*, with the following inscription :

*Deus O. M. operi Aspiciat !*  
*Philippus II. Hispaniarum Rex*  
*a fundamentis erexit*

*MDLXIII.*

*Joan̄ Baptista Architectus*  
*IX Ka. MAII.*

So much has been said on the subject of this extraordinary edifice, and the Spanish writers make such a pompous display of its magnificence, that I might appear to affect a singularity of opinion, if I was to offer freely what my imperfect

imperfect judgment suggests on the matter ; to such of my readers, as have seen the Escorial, what I should have to say would have little novelty ; and in their opinions, who have not seen it, and been taught to respect it, it might have too much. The scale undoubtedly is magnificent, though the mass is graceless ; as a monastery it is vast and awful, fitly calculated to entomb the living and the dead ; as a palace, it is justly emblematic of its founder, who on the summit of the superincumbent mountain was accustomed to sit and survey his rising fabric in silent contemplation and delight. *Francisco de los Santos*, the monk, who wrote a pompous description

description of the Escorial, observes that the sensation, which a spectator feels upon entering the great court, is the same as at suddenly hearing a delightful concert; *the soul*, says he, *in both cases is absorbed in extasy*—what then must have been the sensations of Philip, as he sat upon the top of the mountain, where at one glance he took in the whole birds-eye of the edifice? Certainly, if the good Father heard a concert upon his entering only one of the courts of the monastery, His Catholic Majesty, when stationed on the mountain, must have enjoyed a full chorus of musical extasy: For my part, taking into consideration the scrupulous performance of his vow,

I am

I am inclined to believe his chief pleasure consisted in observing how exactly he had made the building correspond to the *gridiron* of *San Lorenzo* ; this he did in honourable commemoration of the martyrdom of the Saint above mentioned : He also took the pious precaution of disposing a number of relics in the balls of the cupolas, crosses and different parts of the building, to preserve it from fire, storm, or any other injury : These holy preservatives have not been very successful in their office, for great part of the edifice, with not a few of the relics in charge, were consumed by a dreadful conflagration : Nor is this the only element at war with the Escorial, the furious gusts

of wind, that occasionally sweep from the impending mountains, surpass description : The Escorial is placed in the very eddy of these furious gusts ; as neither man, nor beast, nor carriages can stand before them, a subterranean passage is cut through the rock, under the area of the court, for a communication with the town, which is better sheltered from the blast : The massy walls of the building are proof against the violence of the storms, but the covering of the roof, though fortified with all possible care against the attack, continually exhibits melancholy proofs of its insufficiency ; whilst the architect, by disposing the windows to resist the wind, seems to have

forgot, that one part of their office was to admit the light.

If the architect however finds something to condemn, the painter will find much to admire: It is undoubtedly a repository of noble arts. As soon as Philip had conceived the idea of enriching the royal convent with every thing suitable to the magnificence of its scale, and which the mines of America, that flowed in upon his treasury, could procure, he cast his eyes towards his father's favourite painter *Titiano*, then returned into his own country: Whether he solicited him to come again into Spain does not appear; but he had certainly given him several commissions for pictures: In a letter,  
which

which Philip writes to *Titiano* of the 13th of July 1558 from Ghent, he acknowledges the receipt of one from *Titiano* of the 19th of the preceding month, and expressees the satisfaction it gave him to hear, that he had compleated his picture of Calixtus and one also of Diana bathing: He tells him that *he had wrote to Garcias Fernandez at Genoa to forward these pictures for Spain, and desires Titiano himself to superintend the packing and to direct the cases, that no other of his valuable productions might be again exposed to the like misfortune, as had befallen his painting of the Christ, which had been ruined by the way:* He earnestly requests of *Titiano* to restore that

loss by another of the same composition, which he shall highly prize, as coming from the hand of so great a master: In conclusion he expresses his regret to hear that the rents, settled upon him in Milan and Naples, had fallen into arrear, and tells him that he will put those payments in such train, that there shall be no cause of complaint in future. This in effect he performed by a peremptory mandate to his governor of Milan, directing him to satisfy the arrears due to Titiano from the date of the grants in 1541 and 1548, and put the same in regular course of payment for the future, either from the Ducal chamber, or such other funds as might be more conveniently applied to that purpose.

This

This mandate bears date the 25th of December 1558, and at the foot of it the King writes these lines with his own hand: *You know how I am interested in this order, as it affects Titiano; comply with it therefore in such a manner, as to give me no occasion to repeat it.* The King had the further attention to continue to him the grant of his Key, and nominated him First Painter of the chamber.

The pictures, which *Titiano* made in Spain, and those he sent into Spain, form of themselves a large and magnificent collection; the catalogues of the Escorial and Madrid give some idea of them, but do not nearly reach the amount; to particularize their re-

spective merit is not the object of this work, and would be an undertaking far above my hands : In a posthumous publication of *Antonio Rafael Mengs*, printed at Madrid in 1780, there are some observations on *Titiano's* pictures in the palace at Madrid ; I could wish, for the reader's better gratification, that more had been said by *Mengs* upon the subject ; and in general it is to be regretted, that he had not entered into a fuller description of the Madrid collection, of which he professes to give an account : But it is not in these collections of the Escorial and palace of Madrid, as I before observed, that we can find the sum of *Titiano's* works in Spain ;

many

many capital pictures are dispersed, many perished in the deplorable fire, that destroyed the Pardo, some have been by late decree exiled for their dishonesty, and some condemned and executed in the flames: Amongst the pictures, that perished at the Pardo, many portraits of the Austrian family were lost, together with one of *Titiano* himself, painted by order of Charles V. a celebrated work, in which the painter is represented, holding in his hand the portrait of Charles; transferring by this courtly device the honour of the representation from himself to the Emperor. On the subject of the exiles and martyrs above mentioned I am un-

willing to enlarge, it will suffice to say, that being most in the *nude*, their crime will in some people's judgment appear their recommendation; certain it is that the unparalleled and inestimable figure of the sleeping Venus, which was given by Philip the IVth to our Charles the First, when Prince of Wales, upon the visit he made in Spain, and which, after the death of that unhappy monarch, was purchased by the Spanish ambassador in England, has been rescued from execution by the address of *Mengs*. I frequently visited this matchless deity in her hiding-place, where I found her miserably lodged, though respectably attended by an *Atalanta* in  
the

the race by *Guido*, divinely executed, a Helen and Paris by *Rubens*, and three Graces of the same master, coloured to a miracle, but much more *embonpoint* than their principal. To attempt any description of this sleeping Venus appears to me as impossible, as it would be to condemn such perfect and withal such modest beauties to the flames; a graceful turn of the neck gives the full countenance to the spectator, in which the master-artist has displayed beauty and sweetness of the divinest sort, with the most perfect innocence of character; the limbs are elegantly and decently disposed, the hues are glowing and transparent, the outline round

round and glittering, and the local lights and shades produced by those tender and imperceptible touches, that form the *magic* of *Corregio*; in short it is a miracle of art, and was so decidedly the *chef d'oeuvre* of the master, that, after several efforts to rival his own matchless work, he quitted this self-emulation in despair. It is to the honour of *Don Antonio Mengs*, that he saved it from destruction: It had another escape from the flames of the Pardo, which fatal accident being reported to Philip the IVth, then on the throne, he instantly demanded, if the *Titian-Venus* had escaped the conflagration; the messenger assured him that it was saved, *then*  
replied.

replied the King *all other losses may be supported*: I cannot dismiss this enchanting object without observing, that, by testimony of all the best judges of its merit, it yields in no particular to the Venus of Medicis, but in the weaker nature of it's material: twice rescued from the flames, it still exists in perfect condition: May no future age of the world produce a hand to raise an ax against the one, or to construct a funeral pile for the other!

There are several paintings of *Titiano* in the Madrid collection upon fabulous subjects, and in particular a Tarquin and Lucretia so naturally executed, that, what between the excess of chastity in one prince,

prince, and the notorious abuse of it in the other, it must be owned the lady has had an escape. But of all his pictures upon subjects of this description, the most beautiful are two celebrated companions, the one a groupe of Bacchanals, the other of Cupids, in the apartments of the Princess; the figures in each are of the third part of the natural size. In the fore ground of the groupe of Bacchanals there is a young female votarist asleep, of which *Don Antonio Mengs* in his critique above mentioned speaks with rapture; he says that he never saw it without that striking novelty of delight as if he had never discovered it before: The colouring of this figure

figure he observes is in *Titiano's* clearest manner, and the degradation of tints through the whole groupe, (which is all in the *nude*, and which with an infinite variety of nice discriminations composes one uniform tone) is wonderfully contrived; and constitutes such a model in the art of colouring, as he never met with in any other example; he concludes his remarks on this picture by observing, that all the harmonious accompaniments of sky, variegated soil, with deep and tender shades of the trees, form such an assemblage of beautiful objects in nature perfectly imitated, that a better picture in this stile he does not think the world can produce:

The

The other picture represents a very numerous groupe of beautiful Cupids, disposed in a wonderful variety of attitudes, employed in puerile sports, under a grove of apple-trees, the fruit of which they have scattered about the ground, and are playing with in the most gay and natural manner: The same curious degradation of hues in the carnations of the flesh and colours of the hair obtains in this picture, as in the former, and to an equal degree of excellence; the same remarks therefore, as I have quoted in that case, are applicable to this: *Don Antonio Mengs* adds, that these pictures were formerly in the Ludovici palace at Rome, and were a present

sent to the king of Spain: *Sand-*  
*rart* reports of this groupe of Cu-  
 pids, that it served for a study to  
*Dominiquino, Poussin* and *Flamenco*;  
*Albano* has transcribed a part of  
 this groupe into a composition of  
 his painting, and there are two  
 copies made by *Rubens* of these  
 pictures to be seen in the palace;  
 the ingenious author above quot-  
 ed adds with rather too much cri-  
 tical severity, *that these copies of*  
*Rubens are like an elegant author*  
*translated into Dutch, where the*  
*sentiments of the original may be*  
*guessed at, but all the grace is va-*  
*nished.*

Of scriptural subjects, treated  
 by the hand of this great master,  
 the Escorial presents a host of va-

luable examples; not a few are  
 also to be found in the palace  
 at Madrid; the celebrated pic-  
 ture of the Last Supper in the re-  
 fectory at the Escorial has been  
 repeatedly described, and is known  
 to all Europe as a miracle of art:  
 In a letter of *Titiano* to Philip,  
 which is preserved, he informs  
 the King, that he had been seven  
 years employed in painting it;  
 this must surely be understood  
 with latitude as to other inter-  
 mediate compositions; for, al-  
 though the artist, as it is well  
 known, lived to a very uncommon  
 age, yet the life of a Patriarch  
 would scarce suffice to warrant  
 undertakings of such labour, nor  
 would the reward of 2000 golden  
 scudi,

scudi, which the King sent him by way of Genoa, and which was in fact a magnificent price in those times, be a proportionable compensation for the dedication of so great a portion of his time.

The composition, which is called *la gloria de Titiano*, that of Christ in the garden and the Santa Margarita with the Dragon, would claim some description, if much more capable judges had not already passed the due encomiums on these excellent performances; the scrupulous sanctity of the monks was offended at some liberties taken by Santa Margarita in tucking up her robe and discovering part of a very graceful leg; a thing not seemly to be

done, when in company with a Dragon; especially as all Dragons have not the prudence and good faith of that, which was in keeping by the Hesperides: But *Jordan's* rapid pencil pieced the petticoat, which now, like Raphael's wings,

*Her feet  
Shadows from either heel.*

*Titiano* was born in 1480, and consequently was 68 years old when he came into Spain; he staid there five years and, after Charles's abdication, painted many pieces for Philip; it is to be expected therefore, that there will be found some tokens of natural decay

decay in his later works; and certain it is, that though his colouring is always good, some pictures there are in the royal collection of another pencil from his *Venus*, and far less bright than his slumbering *Bacchant*: He prattles sometimes with the privilege of old age; but still it is the prattle of *Nestor*.

It is not to be understood that all the pictures of *Titiano*, that are in the royal collection, were painted by him, whilst he was King's painter to Charles and to Philip: Many are of his earlier and better age, and were either presented to the Crown, or purchased in Italy after the death of *Titiano*: An instance of this occurred in the case

of the famous pictures above-mentioned extracted from the Ludovice palace, which were a present to Philip: There is also in the sacristy of the Escorial a San Sebastian in his best manner, which was given by the *Conde de Benavente*, and several pieces of *Titiano* were collected by the great painter *Velazquez* in his excursion to Italy by order of Philip the IVth. Whilst Philip the IIId. was thus solicitous to enrich his royal convent of *San Lorenzo* with the valuable works of *Titiano*, extracted out of Italy, his own kingdom of Spain offered to his choice many eminent professors and disciples in the art; the residence of that great master in Spain, and the emulation  
of

of contemporary genius, roused into action by the study of his brilliant compositions, as well as by the introduction of other distinguished foreigners, engaged in compleating and adorning that vast fabric, operated to produce an Augustan age in Spain. I shall proceed to name some of the principal painters, as well foreigners as natives, who were employed in furnishing and adorning the Escorial.

*Juan Fernandez Ximenez* of Navarre, commonly called *El Mudo* or *the Dumb*, and generally acknowledged as the *Titiano* of Spain, was born at *Logrono*, of a respectable family; the defects of nature (for he was deaf as well as dumb)

were in some degree compensated to him by most quick and brilliant sense in the remaining faculties. He was first instructed in the art of painting by *Fray Vicente de Santo Domingo*, a monk of *Santa Catalina* in a convent at Talavera in Castile, of the order of Geronimytes ; his early marks of genius were such, that *Fray Vicente* proposed to the parents of *El Mudo* to send him into Italy, which being accordingly done, he travelled to Florence, Venice, Milan and Naples, visiting many of the most famous academies ; but principally forming himself in the school of *Titiano* : He soon established so general a reputation in Italy, that Philip, being apprized of his fame, recalled

recalled him into Spain and appointed him one of his painters at the Escorial; after having given some sketches of Prophets in black and white, in the adornments of the sacristy, as samples of his art, he proceeded to compositions of greater consequence, and painted the Baptism of our Saviour in the Prior's cell; he was after that employed in several paintings for a chapel, which King Philip caused to be erected in the wood of Segovia; these paintings were removed to the upper cloyster of the Escorial, and in one of these, which represents the beheading of Santiago, *El Mudo* has inserted the portrait of Santoyo in the character of the Executioner, in re-

venge for some ill offices, which that minister had done him. Santoyo complained to the King, making suit that the figure might be expunged, and his person not delivered to posterity in the disgraceful occupation of a hangman; the King, who probably knew the cause of the offence, did not disapprove of the nature of the revenge, and, excusing himself to *Santoyo* on account of the excellence of the performance, would not allow the picture to be defaced. The Twelve Apostles on the great pillars of the church next to the high altar are also painted by *El Mudo*. When *Titiano's* famous painting of the Last Supper arrived at the Escorial, *El Mudo* was employed,

ployed, and upon Philip's proposing to cut the canvass to the size of the pannel in the refectory, where it was destined to hang, *El Mudo* to prevent the mutilation of so capital a work made earnest signs of intercession with the King to be permitted to copy it, and reduce it to the size of the place allotted, offering to do it in the space of six months; upon the King's expressing a hesitation on account of the length of the time required by *El Mudo* for the work, and proceeding to put his design in execution, *El Mudo* repeated his supplications in behalf of his favourite master with more fervency than ever, offering to compleat his copy in less time, than he at first demanded,

manded, tendering at the same time his head, as the punishment of non-compliance, laying his hand on his breast as a sign, that he claimed the order of *Santiago* as his reward if he should succeed; the offer was not accepted and execution was performed upon *Titiano*, accompanied with the most distressful attitudes and distortions of *El Mudo*. He died soon after at the Escorial to the great regret of Philip, at the age of 40, in the year 1572, generally intitled the *Titiano* of Spain, and was honoured with an epitaph by *Fra. Lope Felix de Vega Carpio*.

*El Divino Morales* was born at Badajoz in the province of Estremadura, in the beginning of the sixteenth

sixteenth century. He was instructed at Seville in the academy of *Pedro Campana*, a disciple of *Raphael*; from his constant choice of divine subjects and the extreme delicacy of his pencil he acquired the appellation of *El Divino*, and is known to the present age by no other name than that of *El Divino Morales*. All his paintings are upon board or copper, and almost generally heads of the crucified Saviour; no instance occurring of his having executed any composition or figure at full length. His heads are finished off with infinite care and laboured to the utmost, yet not so as to diminish the force of the expression; for I have seen some examples of

his *Ecce Homo* of a most exquisite and touching character ; also some heads of the Christ bearing the cross approaching very near to the Saviour in the famous *Pasmo de Sicilia*. Though *Morales* never fails to impress the countenance with the deepest tints of human agony, I never met with any instance of his doing violence to our ideas of the divinity of the object he represents : His conception of the countenance seems to be original and his own, more resembling however the face of the Christ in *Raphael's* picture above-mentioned, than any other ; and worked, as it appears to me, after the manner of the highly-finished heads of *Leonardo da Vinci*. He was undoubtedly

doubtedly an artist of a very limited invention and design; in aerial perspective and the clear-obscure I have sometimes found him evidently deficient, nor has he any tincture of art or academy in grouping his figures and disposing his attitudes; every thing is left to a simple expression of affecting nature: His *Mater dolorosa* is the very extreme of sorrow; nor is he anxious to maintain any trace of beauty amidst his expressions of affliction: I am of opinion that no imagination, which had not been aided by the spectacles of exhausted nature, which a nunnery exhibits, could have devised an object so extremely woe-begone: It is in short the aggravated portrait

trait of an emaciated devotee expiring in her vigils. It may readily be believed in a country, where paintings of this sort are amongst the objects of devotion, and where every private house is furnished with its oratory and its altar, that the pictures of *Morales* must have been in general request; it has been for the same reason extremely difficult for travellers to extract out of Spain any piece of this author; and as he worked very slowly and was not very industrious or interested in his art, his pictures are both very rare and very permanent in their stations\*.

Enough

\* Since this book went to the press, I have received out of Spain an *Ecce Homo* by

Enough may be had of illegitimate or suspicious pretensions, but in general they are easily to be distinguished. One would expect to find in *Morales's* private life a character in unison with his studies; but the contrary of this appears from his history. When *Morales* was summoned to the Escorial by Philip, he left Badajoz at the King's command, and putting himself in the best array, that his whole substance could procure, presented himself to the sovereign more like an Ambassador upon the

by *Morales*, painted upon stone, which was affixed to a private oratory in the house of the Duque de Osuna, and transmitted to me by the favour of that distinguished Grandee.

delivery

delivery of his credentials, than a rural artist, called to labour at his profession for hire: Upon the King's remarking on the unexpected splendor of his appearance, he answered with an air of national gallantry that, being resolved to dedicate every thing he possess by nature, or by fortune, to the service of his sovereign, he had presented himself in the best condition and attire, that his means admitted in obedience to his summons. It does not appear, that his reply displeased, neither was the King dissatisfied with his performances, for which he liberally rewarded him: However, when upon completion of his undertakings he returned to Badajoz, he seems

seems to have carried home the same spirit of extravagance ; for, when Philip passed through that place in 1581 on his way to take possession of the kingdom of Portugal, *Morales* presented himself in a far different condition, reduced by poverty and age, for he was then 72 years old ; *Morales*, says the King, *methinks you are grown very old, since last I saw you. True, Señor*, replied he, *and also very poor.* Philip, (of whom the arts at least have nothing to complain) directly turning to the city treasurer ordered him 200 ducats, telling him it was to purchase him a dinner—and a supper too ? said *Morales* ; No, answered the King, *give him a hundred ducats more : a*

fortunate rencounter for poor *Mó-  
rales*: He survived this event some  
years and died in 1586. Some of  
his paintings are preserved at Cor-  
dova and Seville; and at Madrid  
in the chapel of *our Lady of the  
Soledad*, belonging to the convent  
of the Trinitarians, I have been  
shewn a *Santa Veronica* by his  
hand: There is also an *Ecce Homo*  
in the convent of the nuns of  
Corpus Christi, which with other  
specimens I have met in private  
cabinets, confirm to me his title  
to the appellation of *El Divino*.

*Miguel Barroso*, (a disciple of  
*Becerra*) and *Domingo Beltran* the  
Jesuit, a native of Victoria, were  
men of eminent talents; they were  
both excellent architects and of  
great

great erudition: The former was employed at the Escorial in painting part of the principal cloyster, the latter, who had formed himself in Italy, executed some statues in the great church of admirable workmanship, and in the grande gusto of *Michael Angelo*. *Beltran* also carved a crucifix for the high altar at the Imperial college, lately occupied by the Jesuits at Madrid, a work of infinite merit and expression; there is another on the high altar of the college at Alcala de Henares, which I have not seen, but which is no less celebrated: Both these ingenious artists died in the year 1590, both were men of amiable

manners, great candour and remarkable modesty.

The same year was also fatal to *Teodosio Mingot* the Catalan, (a disciple of *Michael Angelo*) and *Luis de Carvajal* of Toledo, both eminent painters, and both employed at the Escorial: Part of the principal cloyster is painted by *Carvajal*, and amongst the paintings in the church specimens of a respectable sort are to be found of both these masters.

But amongst the principal artists, employed by Philip in the paintings of the Escorial, the Elder *Coello* was one in the chief favour and esteem of that sovereign, who in his letters styles him *Titiano Portugues* (for he was of  
that

that nation) and addresses him by the affectionate appellation of my beloved son *Alonso Sanchez Coello*. He studied at Rome in the school of *Rafael de Urbino*, and compleated himself in his art under the instruction of *Antonio Moro* in Spain; he passed from Spain into Portugal, and was in the service of Don Juan, and afterwards of his widow Donna Juana, sister of Philip the second: Upon the retirement of Antonio Moro, the King of Spain solicited his sister to supply the loss of that great artist by sending him *Coello*; upon his arrival at the court Philip lodged him in an apartment near at hand, with which he had a private communication, for the purpose of visiting

him, whilst he was at work : On these occasions he treated *Coello* with great familiarity and condescension ; he was in such favour with all the Royal family, that his apartment became at times their general rendezvous ; and in these visits *Coello* made several portraits of Philip on foot and horseback, and of all the Royal or distinguished personages, that composed the court : In short he became considered as a man in such high degree of favour, that his protection was lookt up to by the Courtiers and Grandees and his house and table frequented by the first persons in the nation, not excepting Cardinal Grambela, Don Gaspar de Zueroga, archbishop of Toledo,

ledo, and Don Rodrigo de Castro, archbishop of Seville: *Coello* was no less in favour with Pope Gregory the XIIIth and Sixtus Quintus, with the Dukes of Florence and Savoy, Cardinal Farnese and many other illustrious characters of that time. After endowing a charitable foundation for the reception of poor orphans at Valladolid, *Coello* died in the sixty-fifth year of his age in 1590; an æra fatal to the arts in Spain.

If *Coello* cannot properly be considered as a native of Spain, he must be acknowledged to rank high amongst the chief artists, who have flourished in that kingdom: His paintings in the Escorial, which are chiefly of Saints af-

fixed to the respective altars, do great honour to his memory; the portrait, that he made of the great patriarch San Ignacio, drawn from an impression of his face, taken in wax after his death, is much celebrated; and his original figures of Sifiphus and Titius, as well as his copies from *Titiano* of Tantalus and Ixion, now in the palace of Madrid, are noble specimens. His portraits of many royal and noble persons, which are spoken of as excellent, perished with many other of his capital works in the unfortunate fire of the Prado; of all which survive, the principal in point of composition is preserved in the church of San Geronimo in Madrid, representing

ing the martyrdom of San Sebastian; on the right hand of the Saint stands the figure of Christ, on the left the Virgin Mary, and lower in the front San Bernardo and San Francisco; above a glory and a figure representing El Padre Eterno; the whole is executed with great majesty of design, a bold relief and a strong and masterly expression: He colours in the stile of *Titiano* and seems to draw with great facility and freedom. He died universally regretted by the artists, lamented by Philip, who regarded him highly, and celebrated by the famous *Lopez de Vega* who wrote his epitaph.

Philip in the decline of fortune and life, by the death of *Coello* lost  
his

his best and perhaps only resource against the vexations of state and the intrusions of remorse: Haughty by nature and harsh through disappointment, there were still some moments, when his pride sought the relief of familiarity, and when his temper for a while relaxed into complacency: In those moments he would mount the ladder, (the only one he ever climbed without ambition or disgrace) that privately communicated with the painting-room of *Coello*. Philip had deserved well of the arts, and in company with them he found himself for once amongst his friends: *Coello* had discretion, good manners and much acquaintance with the world; if the

the

the King encouraged conversation, *Coello* knew every body and every thing, and out of those could chuse his topics suitably and treat them agreeably ; if the King was disposed to silence during his visit, as was frequently the case, *Coello* pursued his work with fixt attention, he pressed his canvass into life with all the energy and spirit of his genius : The king sat by, contemplating the new creation, which the hand of art was forming in his sight, and for a while perhaps forgot the breaches he had caused in that of nature's producing : By the easel of *Coello*, if he was not defended from the cares, he was at least secure from the intrusions of Royalty. Whoever has  
been

been accustomed to look on during the operations of industry or art, must have experienced a repose of thought, an interval from worldly inquietude, that steals insensibly and gradually upon the mind, as sleep does on the body : If such are our sensations, whilst contemplating the labourer at his task, or the mechanic at his trade, how much do we improve the avocation, when the eye is called off from every other object and fixed upon one of the most pleasing and surprizing in the whole circle of human arts and inventions ! We may naturally believe that Philip felt the benefits of this resource : In his council-chamber the defec-  
tion of provinces galled his pride,

and the dispersion of armadas thwarted his ambition: In his closet the injured Perez stung his conscience and the unhappy Don Carlos haunted his imagination; but in the academy of *Coello* he saw himself in his most favourable light, and perhaps the only one, which can reflect a lustre on his memory.

The great works, which Philip was carrying on at the Escorial, and the magnificent collection of paintings he was there amassing, attracted the attention of all the artists in Europe, whilst the wealth and munificence of the King held out ample encouragement to adventurers of merit. Spain at that brilliant æra was in possession of  
many

many native painters, who had they been happy enough to have found an historian to have done justice to their fame, would at this day have ranked with the most distinguished masters of the age in Italy; but their names are buried in the obscurity of time, and their works in that of cloysters and convents.

Philip pressed his favourite undertaking with such ardour, and the immeasurable walls of the convent of *San Lorenzo* offered such a field for emulation, that the harvest could not be reaped by natives only, however numerous; so that to conclude the work within the period of his reign it was necessary to call in the assistance of more

A

labourers,

labourers, and a great body of ingenious emigrants accepted the invitation : My design is to present the reader with a few local anecdotes relative to the principal characters of this description, the gleanings of their better history, which in general is so well known, as to make any more diffusive relation superfluous and impertinent.

In selecting these I shall principally follow the order of time, in which they flourished, for the present however confining myself to the reign of Philip the II<sup>d</sup>.

*Antonio Moro* (Sir Antony More) the predecessor and preceptor of the elder *Coello* above mentioned, was born at Utrecht,  
where

where in the early years of his life he studied in the school of *Juan Escorelio*; from thence he passed into Italy, where he ultimately formed himself upon the models of the great masters *Michael Angelo* and *Rafael de Urbino*. He came into Spain 1552, Charles V. being then on the throne, under the protection of his countryman Cardinal Grambeli; he made a portrait of Prince Philip, and, being recommended by the Cardinal to the service of the Emperor, he was sent by him into Portugal to take the portrait of the Princess Donna Maria, then contracted to Philip: At the same time he painted John III. of Portugal and his queen Donna Catalina,

Charles's

Charles's youngest sister; by all which portraits he gave entire satisfaction, and was magnificently rewarded both by Charles and the Royal personages above-mentioned. Having succeeded so well in this commission, he was next dispatched by the Emperor into England to the court of Mary, to take the portrait of that princess, previous to her espousals with Philip: *Moro* employed all the flattering aids of his art in this portrait, and so captivated the courtiers of Spain with the charms of Mary's person, that he was employed by his patron the Cardinal and many of the Grandees to make copies of his picture, one of which I have seen in possession of a noble

family, and by which it should appear that *Moro* was not only a very good painter, but an excellent courtier. Having enriched himself by his embassy to England, he returned into Spain upon the conclusion of peace between that kingdom and France, and was eagerly received into the service of Philip II. then on the throne. His excellence in the painting of portraits supplied him with ample employ in this court, Philip, who made slaves of his friends and friends of his painters, treated *Moro* with extraordinary familiarity. This great artist had not all the courtly discretion of his scholar *Coello*, and met the King's advances with the same ease

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that

that they were made ; so that one day, whilst he was at his work and Philip looking on, *Moro* dipt his pencil in carmine, and with it smeared the hand of the King, who was resting his arm on his shoulder : The jest was rash, and the character, to which it was applied, not to be played upon with impunity ; the hand of the Sovereign of Spain (which even the fair sex kneel down to salute) was never so treated since the foundation of the monarchy ; the King surveyed it seriously a while, and in that perilous moment of suspense the fate of *Moro* balanced on a hair ; the courtiers, who were in awful attendance, revolted from the sight with horror and

amazement (could *Luca Jordano* have seized the groupe in that moment and dashed it off with his rapid facility, what a subject for a painter!) caprice, or I would rather say pity, turned the scale, and Philip passed the silly action off with a smile of complacency: The painter, dropping on his knees, eagerly seized those of the King, and kissed his feet in humble atonement for the offence, and all was well, or seemed at least so to be; but the person of the King was too sacred in the consideration of those times, and the act too daring to escape the notice of the awful office of the Inquisition; these holy and enlightened Fathers, maturely weighing all the circumstances

cumstances of the case, learnedly concluded that *Antonio Moro*, being a foreigner and a traveller, had either learnt the art magic, or obtained in England some spell or charm, wherewith he had bewicht the King: Nor let the heretical reader treat this story as a fiction, or think that the Fathers according to the premises, on which their judgments then were and still are formed, reasoned much amiss; for a disbelief in witches is a species of criminal infidelity to the present moment condemnable at that sacred tribunal, of which I could give a late very notable example, if it was proper to make public a gentleman's disgrace, for which he has suffered punishment,

and of which it is hoped he has duly repented. If *Antonio* had contended that he practised no other charms upon Philip, than those of his art, which over some minds has a kind of bewitching influence, such a plea would scarce have passed with his judges, whose hearts were far out of reach of such mechanical fascination; and as little would it have served his cause to plead the natural gaiety and good-humour of the Monarch, such an argument would have been fairly set down amongst those *quæ non admittuntur*; so that his condemnation would have been inevitable; for as it is hard to suppose how any man could daub the fingers of a King of Spain with

carmine,

carmine, unless by the correspondence and conspiracy of the Devil, or some of his agents in witchcraft, no doubt the tragedy of poor *Torregiano* would have been revived on this occasion, had not the same Devil, in the shape of one of Philip's ministers, luckily snatcht *Antonio* from his fate, whilst the tortures were preparing to force out the impious secrets of his black and diabolic art : This same minister of Philip, or I should rather say of the Devil, spirited away his brother imp of darkness to Brussels without loss of time, upon the feigned pretence (which on such occasions is readily enough supplied to the wicked) of an immediate and pres-

sing avocation. It was in vain that Philip moved him to revoke his resolution, in vain that he solicited him by letters under his own hand, expressed in terms the most kind and condescending, and declarations even of affection to his person, as well as of esteem for his talents; the terrors of a tribunal, from which even the Royal hand, that he had so familiarly treated, could not snatch him, weighed down all the caresses, all the solicitations of the King, and he departed, loaded with the rewards of Philip's munificence, and penetrated with the proofs of his complacency and indulgence. He left many portraits and some historical pieces in  
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the Royal collection, but most of them perished at the Pardo.

As the elder *Coello* supplied the loss of *Antonio Moro* in the list of Philip's painters, so that of *El Mudo* was filled by *Luqueto*, or *Lucas Cambiaso*, or according to Spanish orthography *Cangiaso*, of Genoa, one of the most celebrated painters of his time : His principal work at the Escorial is the roof of the choir, for which it is recorded that he received the sum of 12,000 ducats ; a work of infinite labour, consisting of a vast multitude of the blest, received into heaven, with a great host of angels furrounding the holy Trinity, placed in the center of the groupe : The disposition of these figures is  
void

void of all grace or art as to picturesque effect, being seated regularly upon benches one behind the other, a direct counterpart of the reverend Fathers below : The whole composition presents to the spectator's eye one living range of heads, amongst these the painter has taken the liberty of introducing his own and that of his friend *Fra. Antonio de Villacartin*. Considering it as a pavement of faces, worked by the square yard, *Lucas Cangiasso* has executed his commission like an able and honest mechanic ; the honour of the design is due to certain Theologians of the time, who, regarding the beauty of effect with pious contempt, considered only how to dispose

dispose the assembly in decent form and order, most resembling, as I before observed, the congregation of the monks in the choir. King Charles the II<sup>d</sup> would have engaged *Luca de Jordano* to undertake the re-painting it to dispose it after his own fancy and design; but that painter excused himself from the task, probably for other reasons than the respect he pretended to entertain for the merit and superior excellence of the original. *Lucas Cangiasso* was accompanied out of Italy by *Lazaro Tabaron* and his brother *Horatio Cangiasso*, on whom Philip settled proportionable appointments. *Lucas* died at the Escorial much enriched

ed by the munificence of the King, by whom he was highly favoured.

*Mateo Perez de Alesio*, a Roman by birth, was amongst the many eminent foreigners, that migrated into Spain during the reign of Philip, though I do not find that he came thither by invitation of the King, or that he executed any thing at the Escorial: His great work was a magnificent fresco on the subject of St. Christopher in the cathedral of Seville, which those, who have visited that church, speak of with rapture. It will be sufficient for me to observe of this artist (whose history authors of better information have already recorded) that after abiding

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ing some time in Spain, where he was held in universal estimation, he departed for Italy, candidly declaring, that a country in possession of so great a living master as *Luis de Vargas*, then residing at Seville, of which place he was native, could not be benefited by his talents, nor needed his assistance; and so high was the opinion he conceived of *Vargas's* superior merits, that one day, whilst he was contemplating a picture by that artist of Adam and Eve, and observing upon the masterly foreshortening of some of the parts, *that single limb*, said he, pointing to the leg of Adam, *is more worth than my whole Saint Christopher*; alluding to the great fresco painting

ing above-mentioned: On which artist of the two this testimony reflects most honour I leave with the reader to determine.

*Federico Zucaro* is well known to all, who are conversant in the histories of the Italian masters; the dissatisfaction that his performances in Spain gave to Philip is no less notorious; insomuch that his works were removed out of the Escorial by order of that King, and his fresco paintings in the cloyster replaced by others of *Peregrino Tibaldi*. Whether Philip's expectations were raised too high by the report his emissaries in Italy had made of *Zucaro's* talents, or whether the vanity of the man disgusted him, which might well

well be the case, so it was, that of all the artists employed at the Escorial, he alone fell short in execution and failed of success. At the same time, that Philip dismissed him from his service, he compensated him in so princely a manner for his undertaking, that I am inclined to think upon the evidence of some letters, which passed between the King and his ambassador at Rome *Don Juan de Zuniga* and the *Conde de Olivares*, that the payments made to *Zucaro* were larger, than to any other painter, which came into Spain; but however he might profit in respect of interest, he certainly was a considerable loser in point of reputation by his adventure: *Señor*,  
says

says *Zucaro*, as he was displaying a painting of the Nativity for the great altar at the Escorial, *you now behold all that art can execute ; beyond this, which I have done, the powers of painting cannot go* : The King was silent for a time, and so unmoved, that neither approbation nor contempt could be determined from the expression of his countenance ; at last, preserving still the same indifference, he asked if those were eggs, which one of the shepherds, in the act of running, carried in his basket ; the painter answered him they were : *'Tis well he did not break them*, said the King, and turned away ; the picture was dismissed. Upon another occasion, when Philip expressed

pressed his dissatisfaction with a composition *Zucaro* had made upon the subject of the Visitation, he excused himself by saying it was painted by his scholars; Philip desired him to paint the same subject with his own hand; he did so, and the second work fell short of the first, and Philip remained still more dissatisfied than before. At length he gave him his dismissal, paying him, as I before observed, with an extraordinary munificence. *Antonio El Obrero*, who had been instrumental in recommending him to the King, kissed his Majesty's hand on the occasion, and returned him thanks for his extraordinary bounty to *Zucaro*: *It is not* *Zucaro*, replied the King, *that is in*  
 VOL. I. I fault,

*fault, the blame is their's, who recommended him. Peregrin Tibaldi, or Peregrin of Bologna, was a copyist of the grand stile of Michael Angelo, and, as Palomino informs us, his scholar; but according to the testimony of Zanotti, whose authority is to be preferred, he studied under Bagnacabalo. Philip sent for him to paint the lower cloyster of the Escorial in fresco, having expunged the unsuccessful attempts of Zucaro; Peregrino acquitted himself of this invidious task to the entire satisfaction of his royal employer; the figures are models of correctness, and drawn in a free and masterly stile, with great attention to truth and nature: In these paintings he has*  
treated

treated the subjects of the Purification, the Flight into Egypt, the Slaughter of the Innocents, Christ in the Temple, the Temptations in the Wilderness, the Election of the Apostles, the Resurrection of Lazarus, the Expulsion of the Money-changers out of the Temple and the various passages of the Passion and Resurrection of the Saviour, with other subjects of sacred history. The cloyster is of the conventual sort, sad and gloomy, and neither very spacious nor lofty ; it was, when I saw it, very uncleanly, and I found it in the same condition upon repeated visits : The frescos have received great injury, not only from time and climate, but from actual violence

and notorious want of care; their effect in my opinion is by no means pleasing, whether owing to the cause above-mentioned, or the dry harsh uniformity of the colouring, of a red and bricky hue, unrelieved by any accompaniment, or compartment, and the sizes disproportionate to the cloyster, which as I before observed is neither lofty nor wide: I have no doubt they would make a conspicuous figure as engravings, and the date of their existence might be thereby prolonged; but that I conceive will reach its final period without reprieve of this, or any other sort. Several paintings of *Peregrino* are to be seen in the great church, particularly a St. Michael with the

Fall

Fall of the Angels, a Martyrdom of San Lorenzo and two very grand compositions of the Nativity and Adoration; which he executed to replace those of *Zucaro* on the same subjects, which Philip had rejected: The paintings in the Sagrario are by *Peregrino* on the subject of Abraham and Melchisedech; but what above all things else establishes his reputation in Spain is the cieling of the Library: In this composition the painter has personified the Arts and Sciences in different compartments; the four Doctors of the church, with several eminent antient philosophers, Socrates, Plato; Aristotle and Seneca, accompanied with all their proper attributes and

insignia, interspersed with many beautiful groupes of children and figures in the nude, supporting the cornice and festoons, in various postures and foreshortenings of grand force and expression in the stile of *Michael Angelo*, in perfect drawing and admirable perspective. *Peregrino* was liberally rewarded by Philip and returning to Italy died at Milan in 1600, aged 73 years.

In the same year died *Romulo Cincinnato* the Florentine; he also was one of Philip's painters, and contributed to illuminate this æra of arts and sciences by a residence of many years in Spain, during which he made many excellent paintings, particularly in fresco, not only in the Escorial, but also  
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at Guadalaxara in the palace of the Duque del Infantado, a grandee of an illustrious family. In the Escorial part of the great cloyster is painted by *Romulo Cincinnato* ; in the church there are several of his paintings, particularly one of San Geronimo reading, and another of the same Saint, dictating to his disciples, and in the choir two fresco paintings, taken from passages in the life of San Lorenzo ; also a picture in the chapel of San Mauricio, appertaining to that church : In the Jesuits' church at Cuenca there is a Circumcision of his painting greatly celebrated, particularly for the admirable effect in the foreshortening of one of the figures, which

is represented with his back turned to the spectator ; of this he was so conscious, that he is reported to have declared that he prized one limb of this figure above all his paintings in the Escorial. He died in the year 1600 in an advanced age universally esteemed and lamented.

In this year *Cæsar Arbasia* came into Spain upon the invitation of *Pablo de Céspedes* canon of Cordova, with whom he had formed an intimacy at Rome: He remained in Cordova long enough to paint the cieling of the cathedral and returned into Italy.

*Bartolome de Carducho* accompanied his master *Zucaro* into Spain and was employed in the Escori-

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al: He was a native of Florence and of great eminence in his art; he was concerned with *Peregrin de Bolonia* in painting the famous cieling of the library; the figures of Aristotle, Euclid, Archimedes and Cicero are his, and do him high honour both for their execution and design: Part of the fresco in the cloysters is of his painting, and gave entire satisfaction to Philip, who rewarded him with two hundred ducats over and above his salary, and when *Carducho* was invited into France by order of his most Christian Majesty, Philip expressed such regret at the proposal of his departure, that he excused himself to the French Ambassador in the handsomest manner he could,

and

and continued in Spain. There is no doubt but *Carducho* passed some time at Valladolid, where several of his pictures are remaining; he painted also some pictures for the palace of Madrid, particularly one of the Last Supper, and another on the subject of the Circumcision, which is an excellent performance; but the picture, which of all others establishes his reputation in Spain, is a Descent from the Cross, which now hangs in a small chapel near the side door of the church of San Phelipe el Real in Madrid; a piece of such superior execution, that it may well be taken for one of *Raphael's*. In the church of San Geronimo in the second chapel on the right hand there is an excellent figure

figure of San Francisco, the seraphic Patriarch, in which according to custom he is represented wounded; there is also in the chapel of the old palace at Segovia a very respectable composition of this painter on the subject of the Adoration of the Magi, and another over it with the supposed representation of the *Padre Eterno*. *Carducho* continued in Spain several years after the death of Philip the second, and was appointed by the succeeding King Philip the third to paint a gallery in the palace of the Pardo; the subject was to be taken from the life and actions of the Emperor Charles: *Carducho* begun the work, but died at the Pardo, aged 50 years, before  
he

he had made any great progress in the completion of it. His brother *Vicencio*, who had studied with him, undertook to finish the gallery, which he did, but took the history of Achilles instead of that of Charles the Vth. *Bartolome Carducho* was not only an eminent painter, but a statuary and architect; he was also a man of an exemplary character, patient and content with a little, a hard student and exceedingly industrious in his profession: He was much in favour with Philip the II<sup>d</sup> and his son, but he does not appear to have shared much of their liberality, though we hear of a gratuity from Philip the II<sup>d</sup>, of which I have already taken

taken notice. He died in the year 1610.

I have now enumerated the most eminent painters employed by Philip the II<sup>d</sup> in the Royal monastery of San Lorenzo; it remains to say something of the contemporary artists, who were not engaged in his service at the Escorial; and of these one of the first in time and of the most distinguished in point of merit was the celebrated *Blas de Prado*, a Castilian, born in the neighbourhood of Toledo, and educated in the academy of *Berruguete*. Some of his paintings are to be found in the city of Toledo, particularly in the chapel dedicated to San Blas, but in general they have suffered

suffered great injury by length of time and unfavourable exposures ; in the churches and convents at Madrid I have been shewn some compositions of *Blas de Prado*, particularly in the parish church of San Pedro a Descant from the Cross, which is evidently the work of a great master. In the early part of his life, he passed into Africa upon the solicitation of the Emperor of Mòrocco to take a portrait of his daughter, and passed some time at that court in high favour ; returning into Spain much enriched by his expedition *Blas de Prado* died at the age of 60 in the year 1557 in the city of Madrid.

*Sofonisba Angusciola* of Cremona, with her three sisters, passed some

years in Spain in the household of Queen Isabella: I have seen a letter written by *Sofonisba* to Pope Pius the fourth, dated from Madrid the 17th of September 1561, transmitting a portrait of the Queen above mentioned, the receipt of which his Holiness acknowledges by an answer from Rome of the 15th day of the succeeding month, highly extolling her performance, and assuring her that he has placed it amongst his most select pictures, expressing at the same time much paternal affection for the illustrious lady, which it so exactly represents. *Palomino* thinks, that *Sofonisba* died at Madrid in 1575, aged somewhat more than fifty years; this circumstance he mentions

tions doubtfully, but perhaps it is cleared up by *Vasari*, whose account of her I have not read. These examples will serve to shew that the fair sex had their share of fame at this illustrious æra of the arts; the religious orders also subscribed to the national stock of genius many eminent names; in particular Father *Nicolas Fattor*, a Franciscan monk, born in the city of Valencia; *Pablo de Céspedes* of Cordova, a dignitary in that church, Father *Francisco Galeas*, of the order of Carthusians, a native of Seville, and Father *Juan de la Miseria*, a Carmelite friar, by birth a Neapolitan; of these *Céspedes* was the most eminent, a man of such diffusive talents, that there is

scarce

scarce a branch of literature in which he was not profoundly versed: He had a deep knowledge of the oriental and classic languages, and spoke several of the living ones: He composed many works, which his modesty withheld from the world, and some, that he published: Amongst the latter is a treatise on the antiquities of his church, proving it to have been a temple of Janus, and explaining many emblems and inscriptions in proof of his position. In the art of painting, whether in respect of theory or practice, *Cespedes* holds his rank with the very first names Spain has to boast of; in pursuit of this study he went twice to Rome, and formed his

style upon the model of the great *Michael Angelo*, not in painting only, but in architecture and sculpture also; in both which, by the happy fertility of his genius, he acquired great fame. It was his practice to model the heads of his principal figures, when he was engaged in any great historical composition, and several of these are yet to be found in his native city of Cordova. When he was at Rome he supplied a head to a famous antique trunk of his countryman Seneca in white marble, and acquitted himself so happily in this arduous undertaking, that he was generally thought to have excelled the original, and, in testimony of his triumph, the Romans

caused to be engraved upon it the following words—*Victor il Spagnuolo*. He composed a treatise, in which he compares the antient and modern art and practice of painting: His contemporaries speak of this work in high strains, but it is unfortunately lost to the world, together with one in verse on the general subject of painting; for the talents of this extraordinary man, amidst the circle of arts and sciences, which they embraced, are reported to have excelled in that of poetry. *Cespedes* composed several pictures during his residence at Rome, and in the church of the Holy Trinity he was employed amongst the principal artists of the time, and left there

some paintings in fresco of distinguished excellence : Amongst these artists *Federico Zucaro* was engaged, with whom *Cespedes* formed an intimate and lasting friendship ; as I have been led to give some instances of *Zucaro's* vanity on a former occasion, I am more happy in recording, to the credit of his candour and modesty, that, when he was applied to by the Bishop and Chapter of Cordova for a painting of Santa Margarita, to be affixed to the high altar of the cathedral, he peremptorily declined the commission, giving for answer, that while *Pablo de Cespedes* was in Spain, there would be no occasion to send into Italy for pictures : Though the works of

*Cespedes*

*Cespedes* are dispersed in Seville and the cities of Andalusia, it is in Cordova, that we must expect to find his principal performances, particularly his famous composition of the Last Supper in the high church: *Palomino* gives this picture great commendation for the nice discrimination of characters in Christ and his disciples, and relates a circumstance of the disgust, which *Cespedes* conceived from the silly adoration of some of his countrymen, who were so enchanted with the execution of some vases and jars of porcelain introduced into the piece, that they totally overlooked the superior parts of the composition, and, this being repeated upon several visits by

the mob of spectators, which the fame of so great a work drew together, it angered him to that degree, that he would have proceeded to strike out all these subservient ornaments from his piece, if he had not been diverted from his purpose by the intreaties of his friends and the submission of these false and contemptible admirers. As a colourist, Spain never produced a painter superior to *Cespedes*: In anatomy, drawing and perspective he was peculiarly correct: His angels in the Martyrdom of Santa Catalina, a picture which he painted for the late Jesuits' college at Cordova, are touched with all the colouring and effect of *Coregio*, whom he much resembled

resembled in those particulars. This great man is no less celebrated for his extraordinary virtue, modesty and humility, than for the variety and extent of his genius; he died at Cordova in 1608, being turned of seventy, and is interred in the cathedral under a stone, on which the following words are engraved, viz. *Paulus de Cespedes, hujus almæ ecclesiæ Porcionarius. Picturæ, sculpturæ, architecturæ, omniumque bonarum artium, variarumque linguarum peritissimus, hic situs est, obiit anno Dom. MDCVIII. septimo Kalendas Sextilis.* Of the other religious artists before mentioned Father *Nicolas Fattor* died in the year 1588, after being admitted to a conver-

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sation in person with our Lady of Atocha: *Francisco Galeas* died in 1614, and *Juan de la Miseria* two years after him: This last-mentioned person travelled into Spain, as a hermit, to visit the tomb of the holy apostle Saint James, and, coming afterwards to Madrid, was taken into protection of the court, and received into the house of *Alonso Sanchez Coello*, painter and favourite of Philip the II<sup>d</sup>, with whom he studied several years, and painted many excellent pictures, chiefly portraits; amongst these one, which he was admitted to draw of the person of Santa Teresa the nun, by which he gained great reputation; and another of the most blessed Virgin, with which  
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he is said to have performed many miracles.

*Luis de Vargas* was one of the greatest painters of the sixteenth century ; he was born in Seville, and studied painting in Italy, as well as in his own country ; he returned to Seville, after seven years residence at Rome, and, finding himself excelled in his art by *Antonio Florez* and *Pedro Campana*, he returned without delay back to Rome, and, after serving another apprenticeship of seven years to his art, returned so compleat a master, that the famous *Perez de Alesio*, contemplating his picture of our First Parents in the cathedral of Seville, exclaimed in rapture at the performance, that one limb

limb of the Adam of *de Vargas* was worth more than the whole composition of his colossal Saint Christopher; and, returning into Italy soon after, gave that remarkable testimony of his own candour and the merit of *de Vargas*, of which we have before taken notice.

There are several paintings by *de Vargas* in the famous cathedral of Seville, particularly in the tower, which was his last work. *Luis de Vargas* was not less remarkable for his devotion, than for his talents, and, following the example of the great emperor Charles, he used at his private hours to deposit himself in a coffin, which he kept in his closet, and in that posture

posture pursue his meditation upon death: This event, for which he used such edifying preparation, took place in the year 1590.

In endeavouring to apportion their due degrees of merit to the several Spanish painters of this æra, so fruitful in arts, I sensibly feel the insufficiency of description, and have more than once desisted from my work in despair of giving any thing to the world worth its notice and acceptance. The description of a picture, like that of a battle, rarely brings its object before the reader, though it be ever so scientifically executed: I know no method of speaking intelligibly on the subject of any particular Spanish painter,

painter, whose name and character are unknown to the rest of Europe, except by comparing him with some artist of general notoriety; and yet Spain has produced some, whose manner is so much their own, that it will not be illustrated by any known comparison; of this sort was the great artist whom I am next to mention, *Juan Bau<sup>a</sup>. Juanes*, a native of Valencia; a man, whose celebrity would rank with that of the first artists of the age of Leo X, if his works laid in the track of travellers, or by happy emancipation could be set at liberty, and made to circulate through the cabinets of Europe. *Juanes*, like *Morales*, selected his subjects, without

without an instance to the contrary, from the most sacred passages of revelation; but his life, unlike that of *Morales*, was in unison with the purity and austerity of his taste; prepared by confession and fasting, he first approached the altar before he visited the easel; painting with him was an act of piety and devotion: The characters, which filled his canvases, were of the holiest sort, and, as he gave them life, he gave them adoration: As the exercise of his art was in him an office of devotion, so his moderation kept him from engaging in any private commissions with a view to gain; and I am inclined to doubt if any picture of *Juanes* is at this hour in lay possession:

session : Both *Pacheco* and *Lauren-*  
*tio Surio* give him high encomi-  
 ums ; these he most unquestionably  
 merits, but credulity will never  
 go such lengths upon their autho-  
 rity, or that of *Palomino*, as to  
 rank him not only before *Morales*,  
 but above *Rafael* himself : As there  
 is much to be ascribed to national  
 prejudice, so there is something to  
 be excused in it : Certain it is, the  
 pictures of *Juanes* are finished with  
 astonishing truth, colouring and  
 beauty ; though they are laboured  
 to a minuteness, that lets not even  
 a hair escape, still their force is  
 unimpaired, and the sublimity of  
 design suffers no prejudice by the  
 delicacy of its execution ; as every  
 work is the work of the heart,  
 nothing

nothing is neglected or left, every figure is laboured into life, and the labour is the labour of love, not the task of the hireling: It is greatly to be lamented, that these precious remains are shut in the convents of Valencia, without any hope of delivery and that free display, of which the mortmain of superstition seems for ever to deprive them. In the sacristy of the church of *San Pedro* in Valencia there will be found a Christ by *Juanes*, a San Sebastian and a San Francisco de Paula in the convent of the last-named order: In the chapel of San Francisco de Borja there is a Santa Inès; and in the chapel of Santo Thomas de Villanueva, belonging to the Augustine

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tine monks of San Julian, there are three grand compositions by this master; that in the middle on the subject of the Nativity, with the Martyrdom of Santa Ines on one side and the Burial of a devout priest of that chapel, named *Moses Baut<sup>a</sup>. Agnesio* on the other side. As soon as you enter the cathedral of Valencia, on your left hand hangs a picture of the Baptism of Christ in the river Jordan by this artist; he has introduced the persons of some Saints, present at this scene, by privileged anachronism; as *Rafael* has done in his famous *Madona del Pez* in the Escorial: This composition of *Juanes* is entirely in the stile of the great master above - mentioned; the

the heads are excellent, the expression just and natural, and the execution delicate in the highest degree ; the glory above, with the Padre eterno and the groupe of Seraphim is managed with infinite art and effect. That *Juanes* was a copyist of *Rafael* appears from the example of a Holy Family, painted by him, now in the cathedral of Valencia, in which the Nino Jesus is an exact transcript of that in *Rafael's* Madona del Pez, but touched with all the spirit of an original ; many other paintings of *Juanes* will be found in Valencia ; but care must be taken to distinguish his true pictures, as several of his scholars have passed their works under his name ; that,

for which he is chiefly celebrated, is his composition on the subject of the Immaculate Conception in the late college of the Jesuits in that city; this picture is the object of general veneration, and by the devout and credulous considered as an actual original, or very little removed from an original; for the tradition runs, that it was painted by the order of Father *Martin Alberto*, to whom the blessed Virgin condescended to appear on the eve of the Assumption, and required the holy Father to cause her portrait to be taken in the dress she then wore, which was a white frock, or tunic, with a blue cloak, together with the following accompaniments, viz. at  
her

her feet the moon, over head the Padre eterno and her most blessed Son, in the act of placing a crown on her head, with the Holy Ghost, in the form of a dove, hovering over the groupe. *Alberto*, who was all obedience to the sacred visitor, communicated to *Juanes* the honourable office of fulfilling the commands, which he himself was unable to execute: the devout painter fate to work with extraordinary preparations for the task; and, having sketched a groupe after the description of *Alberto*, presented it to the Father for his opinion; the first design being found imperfect and unlike, *Juanes* was incited to address himself to the undertaking with fresh and more

elaborate acts of penitence and contrition ; no austerities deterred *Juanes* ; whilst the Father assisted him with his prayers the work succeeded, for every touch was sanctified, and his pencil, like a sword blest and made invincible by the Pope, never missed its stroke. Some intervals there were, in which the work stood still, and then the painter would sit looking and pondering on his canvass, till the happy inspiration seized him and the prayers of Father *Alberto* gave him fortitude and vigour to resume the task. *Pacheco* relates an anecdote so much to the credit of the parties concerned, that it would be wrong to omit it ; which is, that the pious *Juanes*, being  
one

one day seated on a scaffold at work upon the upper parts of this picture, the frame gave way, and the painter, being in the act of falling, the holy personage, whose portrait he had finished, leapt suddenly forward out of the canvass, and, seizing his hand, preserved him from the fall: This being done, and *Juanes* safe landed on the floor, the gracious Lady with all possible composure returned to her post, and has continued there ever since, dispensing her favours to her supplicants and worshippers, and is universally believed, upon the testimony of *Alberto*, to be an exact counterpart of the original; and indeed, if we admit the circumstance of the rescue, I do not

see how we can dispute the likeness, which I should guess, from the same circumstance, had not erred on the unfavourable side: With legends of this sort *Pacheco's* book is filled; a specimen or two will serve to shew the credulity and superstition of the time: I shall give this very sparingly, and I hope without offence to the opinions of any reasonable man. This great artist died in 1579, in the town of Bocairente in Valencia, after having painted the great altar of that church, which was his last work. In the year 1581 his body was removed agreeable to his last will and testament to the parish church of Santa Cruz in Valencia from that of Bocairente,

attended

attended by a considerable train of secular priests and others. Reduced by religious austerities and mortifications, he died at the age of fifty-six years: By his piety he merited a place in the calendar of Saints, by his genius a name amongst the first class of his art; high in the school of *Rafael* at least, if not on a level with the great master himself.

*Juan Labrador* a Spaniard, was a scholar of the *Divino Morales* and the best painter of fruits and flowers and of still-life in general, that Spain ever produced; he died in 1600 at Madrid at a very advanced age.

*Juan Pantoia de la Cruz* was born in Madrid, and studied under the

L 4      celebrated

celebrated *Alonso Sanchez Coello*, whom he succeeded as painter of the chamber to Philip the II<sup>d</sup>; he chiefly excelled in portraits and died in 1610.

I have now nearly enumerated the principal artists, who flourished in Spain during the reign of Philip the second; that prince died in September 1598, at his favourite monastery of San Lorenzo in the most deplorable and loathsome state of misery, to which human nature can be reduced before its actual dissolution: It must be acknowledged he was a liberal protector of the arts; the great work of the Escorial, in which his pride and superstition engaged him, gave occupation and display to many eminent

eminent men: The genius, which this encouragement called up, appears to have lost none of its force during the reign of his son and successor Philip the III<sup>d</sup>. Artists of distinguished abilities will be found in this period. *Bartolome Gonzalez*, a native of Valladolid and a disciple of *Patricio Caxes*, came to Madrid in 1606, and was made King's painter upon his arrival; he made many portraits of the Austrian family for the palace of the Pardo in a very excellent stile; though he was of an advanced age, when he entered into the service of King Philip the III<sup>d</sup>. for he died at the age of sixty-three, in the year 1611, in the city of Madrid.

*Juan de Solo* and *Juan de Chisinos*.

were

were natives of Madrid, both eminent artists and both died in the year 1620. In the same year died *El Doctór Pablo de las Roellas* of Seville, and the Cartusian monk *Padre Luis Pasqual Gaudin*, born at Villafranca in Biscay; the former of these was a scholar of *Tiziano's*, and left many respectable monuments of his art at Cordova and Seville. *Phelipe de Liano* was born at Madrid, was a scholar of *Alonso Sanchez Coello*, and became so famous for portraits of a small size, which he executed with such spirit, that he got the name of *El Ticiano Pequino*; he died in 1625: This year was also fatal to the famous *Patricio Caxes*, a noble Florentine, in the service of Philip  
the

the III<sup>d</sup>. who engaged him to paint the Queen's gallery at the Pardo in fresco. The story which *Caxes* chose was that of Joseph and the wife of Potiphar, a subject not very flattering to female delicacy, but it perished with many other works of art in the lamentable fire, which consumed that palace.

*Dominico Teotocopoli*, commonly called *El Greco*, flourished in this æra; there are many remains of his art, both as painter, statuary and architect in the cities of New Castile. He came so near the manner of his master *Titiano*, that many of his pictures have passed upon the world under that character; this it seems was not same sufficient for the vanity of *Dominico*; but in his efforts

efforts at originality he has exposed himself to the ridicule of all good judges : When he departs from *Titiano*, he departs from nature and substitutes in her stead an extravagance of design, with so faulty a mode both of colouring and drawing, that he is no longer the same master : Of this sort are his paintings in the convent of Donna Maria de Aragon at Madrid, and the picture which he drew for the Escorial by order of Philip the II<sup>d</sup>. on the subject of the martyrdom of San Mauricio and his companions : Philip was too good a judge not to see the extravagance of his composition, and refused it a place in his collection ; *Dominico Greco* made humble suit to save the credit

of his work, and it is likely was convinced of the errors, into which he had been led by an affectation of singularity, for he made some corrections ; after which his picture was, with some degree of difficulty, admitted to a place, though not very conspicuous in the Sala de Capitulo ; whilst *Romulo Cincinnato* was deputed in his stead to the more honourable task of painting an altar-piece for the chapel of the Saint above mentioned. In the cathedral of Toledo there are some pictures by *Dominico* in his best manner, which are admirable performances ; particularly a grand composition on the parting of the raiment of our Saviour before his crucifixion, which hangs in the sacristy,

crifty, and is so entirely in the stile and manner of *Titiano*, that his reputation could have suffered no injury by its adoption. In the same place are the twelve Apostles by the same master, but in an inferior stile. In the parish church of Santo Tomé is a very capital picture of *Dominico's* on the interment of *Don Gonzalo Ruiz* of Toledo; this illustrious person, who was *Conde de Orgaz*, founded an Augustine convent under the title of San Estevan in the city of Toledo, in commemoration of which pious act *Dominico* has represented San Augustin and San Estevan in the act of placing his body in the tomb: This picture cost the Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo, *Don Gaspar de Quiroga*, two thousand  
ducats,

ducats, a great sum in the year 1584, when it was executed at the suit of the parish priest of Santo Tomé and put up in that church, which, as well as the convent before mentioned, was founded by this noble and devout person: This picture, and that on the parting of our Saviour's raiment are the most capital performances of this author in Spain; there are various others however both at Toledo and Madrid, but chiefly at the former city, which would well repay the curiosity of a traveller: At Illescas, which is half way between the said cities, the church of the Hospital de la Caridad was designed by *Dominico*, and is, with its altars, carvings

and

and paintings, a very respectable proof of his merit, in the several elegant arts which he professed: He was near eighty years old, when he died at Toledo in 1635, and was interred in the parish church of San Bartolomé. *Dominico Greco* was the first painter in Spain, who had the spirit to oppose the exaction of a royal tax upon the pictures painted and sold by living masters, which he litigated and obtained a favourable decree.

*Diego de Romulo Cincinnato* was son and scholar of the elder *Romulo*, painter to Philip the II<sup>d</sup>; he entered into the service of *Don Fernando Enriquez de Ribera*, third Duke of Alcala, and went with him to Rome, when he was appointed

pointed ambassador extraordinary from Philip the IVth, for the purpose of doing homage to Pope Urban the VIIIth; he painted his Holiness three several times, and so much to his satisfaction, with such applause from all the artists at Rome, that he was rewarded with many handsome presents and made a Knight of Christ in Portugal, where the ceremony was performed by Cardinal *Trexo Parriagua*, a Spaniard: This was done in presence of the Duke of Alcala, his patron, in the house of the Cardinal before-mentioned, who gave him a gold chain and the medal of the order: This passed in December of the year 1625, and in the year following this in-

genious artist died in the city of Rome, and was buried in the church of San Lorenzo, with all the ceremonials due to a Knight of the order and a man of so distinguished a genius. Philip the IVth of Spain had the consideration to solicit his Holiness to transfer the dignity of Knight of Christ to *Francisco* the brother of *Diego*, which was accordingly done.

*Francisco* and *Juan Ribalta* were father and son, born in Valencia, and painters of such equal eminence, that it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish their respective hands; the father's pictures are however rather more finished than those of the son's, which, on their part, have the advantage in force

force and effect : In many of his pictures he appears to have proposed his countryman *Juanes* for his model, and sometimes paints so like his contemporary *Vicencio Carducho* the Florentine, as scarce to be distinguished from him ; of this sort is his picture of the Last Supper on the high altar of the college of the Patriarch in Valencia, which, if compared with that of *Carducho* on the same subject upon the high altar of the church of the nuns of Corpus Christi in Madrid, will be found so exactly corresponding in stile and manner, that both might pass for the work of either master. One of the best works of *Ribalta* in Valencia is a dead Christ in the hall of the chap-

ter-house of the Carmelitic convent, copied from *Sebastian del Piombo*, the original of which is in the Royal collection: In this same place are two other copies from *Piombo* of admirable execution. It is related of *Francisco Ribalta*, that, having painted a crucifixion for the Pope's nuncio in Spain, the picture was carried to Rome, and, upon being shewn to an eminent painter in that city, he immediately exclaimed—*O Divino Rafaelo!* judging it to be a capital performance of that master; upon being told of his mistake by the nuncio, he proceeded to examine it afresh with great attention, and concluded with a common Spanish proverb, *Que verdadera-*  
 2 *mente*

*mente donde yeguas hay patros nacen;*  
 viz. Where there are mares there  
 will be colts; importing, that all  
 countries may at times produce  
 extraordinary men. *Francisco Ri-*  
*balta* died in Valencia in 1600, and  
 his son in 1630; he had the ho-  
 nour of being the first master of  
*Ribera* called *Spañolet*.

*Adriano* of Cordova was a lay  
 brother of the barefooted Carme-  
 lites; his works are few and con-  
 fined to the city abovementioned;  
 the chief composition is a cruci-  
 fixation, in which he has introduced  
 the mother of Christ, San Juan  
 and la Magdalena, with other fi-  
 gures of half length, in the man-  
 ner of *Rafael Sadeler*, to whom he  
 was greatly attached; this picture

is in the antichamber to the sacristy of the Carmelitic convent at Cordova, in which city *Adriano* died in the year 1630. This artist was so diffident of himself, that he used to deface or destroy his pictures, as soon as he had executed them; and so general was this practice with him, that his friends took occasion to intercede with him for the preservation of his valuable productions in the name of the souls in purgatory, knowing his attachment to the holy offices in their behalf: By this mode of exorcism, the destroying spirit, which his self-dissatisfaction had conjured up, was kept in check, and thanks to the souls in purgatory! some very valuable pictures

were

were rescued from extinction by their influence and authority.

*Vicencio Carducho*, a Florentine, the brother and scholar of *Bartholome Carducho*, was King's painter in the reigns of Philip the IIIrd and IVth : He was in singular esteem and favour with those princes and employed in many eminent works at the palace of the Pardo ; the works of this master are to be found in all the cities of Castile, in Toledo, Salamanca, Segovia, Alcala and Valladolid, as well as in Madrid, where he died in 1638 ; this date is ascertained by the following memorandum, inscribed on a picture of San Geronimo, in the great church of Alcala de Henares—*Vincentius Carduchi Floren-*

*tinus, hic vitam non opus finit*  
*anno 1638.* He died at the age of  
 70 years: He instructed the fa-  
 mous *Rizi*, who was painter to  
 Philip the IVth and Charles the  
 IIId, and formed many other dis-  
 ciples in his academy.

Philip the IIId died and was  
 succeeded in 1621 by his son Phi-  
 lip the IVth, a great patron of  
 the arts, in whose time flourished  
 men of very illustrious talents.  
 In 1623 Charles Prince of Wales  
 came to Madrid, upon a youthful  
 folly of gallantry, to throw him-  
 self at the feet of the Infanta, sister  
 of Philip, and conclude, as he re-  
 lieved, a treaty of marriage, which  
 had been long in dependence and  
 obstructed by many difficulties and  
 delays:

delays : In this expedition he was accompanied by *Pedro Pablo Rubens* of Antwerp : This great master was then in his forty-sixth year ; had concluded a long course of study in Italy, being in high estimation, upon his return to Flanders, and greatly in favour with the Archduke Albert and the Infanta Donna Isabel Clara Eugenia his spouse ; he had painted several pictures by order of the Emperor and of the King of England, and had visited Paris, where, by order of Mary of Medicis, he had executed his famous paintings for the Luxembourg palace with great credit and success. Charles had an early passion for the arts, and was greatly attached to his fellow traveller ;

traveller; the honours, which the King of Spain lavished upon his Royal visitor with all the profuse magnificence, that Spanish gallantry could devise, extended themselves to the person of his ingenious companion. Olivares, then the minister of Spain, had splendor, and Philip was in possession of taste: Rubens was in turns carested by both; the Royal collections of the Escorial, Pardo and Madrid opened to his view an inexhaustible magazine of arts. Mr. Horace Walpole is mistaken in thinking Rubens was in Spain, during the administration of the Duke of Lerma: This was not so. Rubens had studied *Titiano* and *Pablo Verones* at Venice with

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distinguishing

distinguishing attention ; the cabinets of Philip now displayed such superb compositions of these masters, particularly of *Titiano*, as equally captivated both the painter and the Prince ; *Rubens*, by order of the Catholic King, copied the *Europa*, the *Baths of Diana*, and several other pictures of *Titiano*, which Charles had particularly admired ; when these copies were finished, it was expected, that Philip should present them to the Prince of Wales, and the compliment would surely have been a worthy one both to Charles and to his favourite artist ; but the generosity of Philip meditated greater lengths, and in truth it scarce knew any bounds towards his princely

princely guest: He retained to himself the copies and sent to Charles the originals. It is proper in this place to observe, that these valuable originals returned again to the possession of the King of Spain, when Charles, by the instigation of Buckingham, made occasion to dissolve his engagements with the Infanta: to reject the sister and yet to retain the presents of the Catholic monarch would have been a conduct irreconcilable to the spirit and principles of Charles; though his attachment to the arts was as ardent as any man's, he had the sentiments of a gentleman and pride of honour superior even to his love of the art of painting. In  
the

the event of things it has come to pass, that Charles, instead of taking from the Royal stock in Spain, has been the means of some additions to it of the highest value. Charles, having taken his departure for England, and the high punctilio of the Spanish monarch having supported itself to the latest moment of his abode, by erecting a pillar on the spot, where they parted, *Rubens* at the same time returned to Flanders; and Philip, having now compleated his hunting-feat of the Torre de la Prada, in the neighbourhood of Madrid, applied to that artist for several pictures in character with the palace, with exact descriptions of the sizes of the canvasses and the

rooms

rooms and positions in which they were to be hung; all these were executed by *Rubens*, and transmitted to the King, who highly approved of them: many of the dogs and other animals in these hunting-pieces were put in by his scholars *Azneira* and *Pedro de Vos*, who excelled in that branch of the art. About this time the *Conde Duque de Olivares*, Philip's minister, had compleated his foundation of a convent of barefooted Carmelites, at the little town of Loeches, in the neighbourhood of Madrid, now belonging to his Excellency the *Duque de Alba*. Philip, to do a grace to his favourite and to make a merit with the religious of that order, commissioned

missioned Rubens for some pictures, which he executed in his grandest stile, and richest glow of colours: Two of these, which flank the altar, are of considerable dimensions, and, in point of execution, not to be exceeded by any of the master; the first is an allegorical composition on the Triumph of Religion, which he has personified and habited very gracefully: This figure is seated in a superb triumphal carr, drawn by four angels, with others in attendance, bearing the cross and other symbols, properly in character; four figures, that express the various characters of Infidelity, or Ignorance, over which Religion is supposed to triumph, follow the carr,

carr, like slaves or captives, bound with chains; whilst the piece is crowned with beautiful cherubims, that hover over the groupe, with chaplets of various descriptions in their hands, disposed with singular art and astonishing effect: The other, which companions it in size, is the Interview of Abraham and Melchisedech, who offers him bread and the tenth of the spoils; in the drapery of the priests, and the armour of the soldiers, *Rubens* has exhausted every resource, that his fund of colouring could supply; there are two other pictures in this small but precious collection of the same author, and of equal size and excellence with the above, that cannot

not be passed over in silence ; they hang in the choir, that on the left-hand represents the four Doctors of the church with Santo Thomas, San Buenaventura and Santa Clara ; its companion on the opposite side represents the Four Evangelists, with their proper emblems, compositions of unspeakable majesty and expression : The original sketch of this latter piece is preserved in the Sitio of the Buen Retiro, that of the Doctors in the palace of Madrid. It is painful to observe, that these magnificent performances are suffering daily for want of new straining and the obvious repairs, which, if not speedily applied, these monuments of art

will be in ruin : In the nave of the church there are two other large compositions by Rubens, the one of Elias and the Angel comforting him in the desert, the other of the Israelites gathering manna ; the scenery in both these pictures is uncommonly beautiful, so is the sky in the latter : The drapery of Elias is finely disposed ; but, as the painter has neglected to dress the Prophet in the habit of a Carmelite, the holy Fathers, who claim him as the founder of their order, are not a little scandalized by the omission. I cannot inform myself upon what proofs these rigid devotees carry up the pedigree of their order to the aforesaid prophet ; but, whatever flaws a scrupulous

pulous

pulous enquirer might find in their title, this I am sure of, that the strength of their faith can make up for the weakness of the authority : The Angel in this piece is coloured to a miracle, and, as the Fathers do not claim to derive from him, there is no exception to the habit, which the painter has thought fit to give him. The figures in these pieces are above natural size.

The three great kingdoms of Europe (Spain, France and England) were at this time governed by the ministers Olivares, Richelieu and Buckingham ; it was the reign of favourites : Buckingham, who had more caprice and less genius than either of his contemporaries,

had nevertheless contracted a great esteem for *Rubens*, during their expedition to Madrid; this was not directed to his professional talents, but to those qualities and good conduct, which undoubtedly he had, and which Buckingham sagaciously enough determined to call forth, when any great occasion should present itself: Such was now in view; Buckingham was at Paris, negotiating a marriage between Charles, who had lately succeeded to the throne, and the princess Mary, whom that prince had seen at Paris in his way to Spain, and of whose beauty and attractions we have such striking testimonials under the hand of *Vandyke*. Though Buckingham at Madrid

had

had wantonly avowed eternal enmity to the minister of Spain, he now entered upon a correspondence with *Rubens* on the means of reconciling the kingdoms, and this produced the second visit, which that artist paid to Madrid in quality of ambaffador extraordinary from the court of Bruffels in the year 1628. He ftaid nine months in Madrid on this negociation, and, being at times confined to his chamber by the gout in his feet, he took the opportunity of working at his eafel; in which time he compleated eight grand pictures for the great faloon of the palace, of which his famous Rape of the Sabines was one, and alfo his Battle of the Romans and the Sabines. In this period, fuch

was the rapidity of his pencil, that he took five several portraits of King Philip, one of which is equestrian and grouped with several other figures ; a magnificent performance, and for which he received a magnificent reward, with the honour of knighthood, of naturalization and the golden key, as gentleman of the chamber. He painted the Infanta a half-length, and the King of the same size by commission from the Arch-duchess Isabella ; he made five or six other portraits of illustrious persons.

Superior to the little vain punctilios of his art, he returned with ardour to his task of copying the most capital works of *Titiano* in the royal possession, such as the

Venus

Venus and Adonis, the Venus and Cupid, the Adam and Eve and many others, with several portraits, particularly of the Landgrave, the Duke of Saxony and the great Alva; he made a considerable addition to his grand composition on the Adoration of the Magi, which now holds so conspicuous a place in the Madrid collection; of all the crown of Spain possesses of the works of this eminent master, this picture of the Adoration appears to me the most superb and brilliant; and his dead Christ in the Sala del Capitulo of the Escorial the most touching and expressive: I have never yet found any picture, that speaks so strongly to the passions as this last:

Amongst the capital performances of *Rafael*, *Titiano* and others, this composition has attracted, and will probably continue to attract little notice or applause, but I am bold to believe every spectator, who shall review this wonderful collection with independent taste and determination not to be told what he is to feel, and where he is to admire, and will stop a while to contemplate the tragic spectacle of a mangled Saviour, surrounded by a groupe of such mourners, as seem to feel a sorrow, like the object, which creates it, more than human, will own with me that *Rubens* in this affecting piece has touched the passions with something more than a painter's, with a poet's

poet's hand: Contemplating this picture, I could not help calling to mind the bitterness of *Mengs'* criticism, when he is comparing *Rubens'* copy of *Titiano* to a Dutch translation of an elegant author; and in this train of thinking I could not avoid drawing a comparison in my mind between the piece before me and that, which *Mengs* himself has composed on the like subject: The scene is the same, the actors the same, and the catastrophe not to be diversified: But with *Mengs* all is lifeless, cold and flat; methodized by art and measured by rule; the groupe of an academy, sitters for attitudes and hirelings for sorrow; the dead body of the Christ is laid out and in like manner

ner exposed to view in the one case as in the other, but what a contrast! *Mengs* has indeed laboured hard to make a beautiful corpse; he has rounded the muscles, and polished the skin, and given it such a hue, that it ceases to be flesh, and is a shining waxen figure with no trace of pain or sufferings past; look upon the other, and you contemplate, as it should seem, the very person, *who himself bore our sorrows on the tree, by whose stripes we are healed*: Yet *Mengs* is the author, whom courtly prejudice has put above comparison in Spain, whom not to admire is treason against state, and whose worship is become canonical, a part almost of the orthodox idolatry

latry of their religion: *Mengs* is the critic, who, professedly treating of the collection of pictures in the palace at Madrid, can afford no commendation or description of *Reubens's* capital picture of the Adoration and records his name apparently with no other view but to make a needless sacrifice of it to that of *Titiano*, whom it seems he had had the temerity to copy.

It is hardly to be believed, that *Rubens* during these nine months finished several other considerable pictures, particularly his Martyrdom of the apostle San Andres, which now makes the altar-piece of the Flemish chapel, an enchanting composition. I have related that he arrived in Spain in the year

1628 ;

1628 ; on the 26th of April in the year following he took his departure, not without many distinguishing tokens of favour from his Catholic Majesty, by whose order the Conde Duque de Olivares presented *Rubens* with a ring worth two thousand ducats ; he was also made secretary to the privy council at the court of Brussels for his life, with the succession to his son Alberto, a very considerable benefice. Having now attended him to the time of his leaving Spain, I shall commit him for the remainder of his career to his more professed biographers, observing only, that he formed a friendship in Madrid with the great Spanish painter *Diego Velazquez de Silva*, which

which friendship was continued by a correspondence, that lasted many years.

*Juan del Castillo* of Seville was a painter of eminence and in great repute as a master and instructor in the art ; he had the double honour of being disciple of *Luis de Vargas*, and teacher of *Bartolome Murillo* ; the famous *Alonso Cano*, and *Pedro de Moya* were likewise his scholars : He died at Cadiz, aged 56, in the year 1640.

At this period of time, under the fostering auspices of Philip the fourth, such a host of artists present themselves to my view, that, whilst I perceive the impracticability of recording all, I feel repugnance at omitting any ; as I would

not

not willingly present to the public a mere catalogue of painters and their works, so neither would I strain the truth of circumstances by endeavouring at variety. In this dilemma therefore I have judged it best to select some of the most eminent, and pass over the less interesting in silence; amongst the former *Eugenio Caxes* undoubtedly deserves a place, if it were only that he was found worthy to be of the list of King's painters, and to enter into competition with the celebrated *Velazquez* in the branches both of historical and portrait painting: Though he was a native of Madrid, yet his father *Patricio*, by whom he was educated in his art, was a Florentine:

Florentine : Philip the fourth gave in person to *Eugenio*, but what became of the picture, or whether it is in existence, I have not been able to discover ; it was his fate, with many others, to be eclipsed by the superior lustre of *Velazquez's* talents, and from the time that artist entered into the royal service and employ, *Eugenio* principally employed his talents in painting for the convents and churches, who, in emulation of the court, held forth a very liberal encouragement to the arts : The convent of San Phelipe in the city of Madrid contained the chief collection of this master's works, where they perished by fire together with the convent itself in 1718 : He was jointly

jointly engaged with *Vicencio Carducho* in the frescos of the Pardo, where the like fatal accident again consumed his labours with many others equally to be lamented: He died in 1642, at the age of sixty-five.

In the same year died *Pedro Orrente*, by others called *Pedro Rente*, born in Murcia, and Familiar of the Inquisition in that city, a disciple of *Bassan*, and protected by the minister Olivares, who employed him in the paintings, then collecting at the palace of the Buen Retiro: Many of his works are to be found in Valencia and Cordova, and some at Toledo, particularly a *Santa Leocadia* coming out of the sepulchre, over the  
door

door of the sacristy of the cathedral, and in the chapel de los Reyes nuevos belonging to the said church a Nativity, which companions an Adoration of the Magi by *Caxes* before-mentioned; both which are excellent compositions and finely executed: He coloured in the stile of his master, but in his choice of nature did not imitate his vulgarity of taste; in correctness of drawing he has been rarely exceeded: He was buried in the parish church of San Bartolome at Toledo, in which he died far advanced in years, and is deservedly to be numbered amongst the most eminent Spaniards of his profession.

*Francisco Fernandez* and *Alonso*  
 Vol. I. O *Vazquez*,

*Vazquez*, were the favourite disciples, the one of *Carducho* and the other of the celebrated *Luis de Vargas*: *Vazquez* was a native of Ronda, and practised his art in the city of Seville: His figures in the nude are drawn with great truth and anatomical skill; they are slight and sketch-like, but executed with effect and force; whilst he was painting in Seville, *Francisco Pacheco* (from whose treatise some of these anecdotes are drawn) was keeping an academy in that city, with great reputation and success; *Velazquez*, who afterwards rose to such high honours and favour with his King, was a disciple of *Pacheco*'s at this time, *Vazquez* and *Pacheco* were  
rival

rival artists and painted some pictures professedly in competition for the cathedral of the convent of barefooted Carmelites, and other places; the manner of *Pacheco*, though learned and correct, was harsh and dry in the extreme, so that *Vazquez* was much the more popular painter of the two; and young *Velazquez*, who about this time married *Pacheco's* daughter, did not think fit to espouse his taste and formed himself upon other models. There is a little couplet upon a crucifix of *Pacheco's*, which satyrizes this harshness of manner with so much smartness, and such neatness of versification, that I present it in the original to the reader:

*Quien os puso assi, Señor,  
 Tan desabrido y tan seco,  
 Vos me direis que el amor.  
 Mas yo digo, que Pacheco.*

Nothing can be more musical than the chime of the words, but the idea cannot be well conveyed in English. It seems natural for academicians like *Pacheco*, who are so much concerned in the grammar of their art, to contract a stiff pedantic stile, as was the case, but his pictures are said to be good studies, and, if he was not a painter of the first manner, he appears to have been a great master and author in his art. He was a man of liberal sentiments, strict morals and uncommon modesty :

deſty: He died in Seville in 1654, having ſurvived his competitor *Vazquez* four years. As to *Franciſco Fernandez*, who was unqueſtionably one of the firſt artiſts of his time, he died in 1646 at Madrid; of which place he was a native, being killed by *Franciſco de Baras* in a ſudden fit of paſſion; at the age of forty-two years, univerſally regretted.

*Joſef de Ribera*, known to Europe by the name of *Il Spagnoletto*, was a native of Xativa in the kingdom of Valencia; a country rich in natural productions and of a moſt happy temperature in point of climate: In this particular it has been frequently compared to Greece, and, like Greece,

has been found uncommonly prolific in giving birth to men of genius and talents. How far the growth and culture of the human mind may, like vegetable nature, depend upon the skiey influences, there is no need at present to enquire; the seeds of genius, like those of any other tender plant, may well be supposed susceptible of nutrition, advancement or repression, by the operations of the atmosphere; and if this obtains in the general, I think we may conclude for it more strongly in favour of the particular art now under consideration, than of any other perhaps in the whole catalogue of human study or invention: Painting, which is an operation

ration manual as well as mental, demands the joint vigour and exertion of body and mind; it should seem that there is in demand a force of atmosphere to brace the corporeal system and at the same time such a degree of genial warmth and relaxation of climate, as shall give imagination its full play and scope; these can only be obtained in those happy latitudes, where our scene is now laid. It is needless perhaps to observe, that there must be proper lights for the creation of the art and there should be a commodious temperature for their preservation and continuance: These are to be had in their highest perfection in Spain, as well as Greece. If the Ice-

lander in his native climate ever should experience the impulse of a painter's genius, the year itself would not supply many hours in which his fingers could obey its summons; and in the other extremity of climate, where every fibre is unstrung by relaxation, all, who have experienced, know the inaptitude both of mind and body towards any action or employ of either; unfit alike for arts and arms, the emasculate and soft inhabitant sinks into sloth and slumbers away a life, that scarce deserves a better name than vegetation. Upon the whole I think we may admit, that there are some portions of the habitable earth, where nature has declared herself against the production

duction of painters, and no portion yet discovered where an assemblage of more happy requisites ever centered, than in the climate and country, in which the artist now before us had his birth.

It may be proper to observe, that, although there cannot be found amongst the Spanish painters a greater instance of poverty in the extreme, than what *Ribera* experienced, yet his pretensions in respect of family were as high and his blood as pure as most in Spain : This pride of pedigree is there to the full as much at heart, and as ceremoniously maintained amongst men in the last degree of worldly misery, as it is with the rich and great.

To

To enumerate a line of ancestors, unadulterated with Moorish or Jewish blood, and not made vile by any ignoble and dishonourable trades, is the glory of an old Castilian, though in rags and wretchedness : The house of *Ribera*, tho' it had branched into Valencia, was in its original rooted in the pure terra firma of Old Castile ; and I dare say his parents would as soon have brought up their son to the occupation of a hangman, as apprenticed him to the trade of a shoemaker : This is amongst the occupations, which an old Spaniard calls *dishonest*, and by which he would as effectually pollute his blood, as an Indian would forfeit his cast by eating hog's-flesh out  
of

of the unclean platter of a Portuguese: To be a mender of shoes, or in vulgar phrase a cobbler, is no degradation to a Spaniard's dignity; but to be a maker of them in the first instance is corrupt and vile, and such an artisan cannot consort or intermarry with the persons, that are uncontaminated with any thing but poverty and vermin.

With these principles, and no other earthly possession for his inheritance young *Ribera* entered himself a disciple of *Francisco de Ribalta*, as I have already related; how long he continued, or how far he proceeded to form the peculiarities of his taste under the tuition of this master, I cannot precisely ascertain;

tain; he was certainly very young, when he first went to Rome, because it was there he first received the puerile appellation of *Il Spagnoletto*, or the Little Spaniard; and that this was in early time is also manifest from other reasons: As for his singularity in chusing subjects of terror and expressions of pain, that was not owing to the infusions of precept, or the effect of imitation, but was in him at once characteristic and original. He had a strong mind hardened by adversity and naturally superior to those passions, which, though soft and enervating, have operated to produce the beautiful in art. In the sublime and terrific *Ribera* stands forth as a great master: In  
 tragic

tragic compositions, the distortions of agonized nature, and in the strong and horrible reliefs of the deepest lights and shades he is eminently distinguished: England is in possession of so many examples in this cast of the author, that I shall not enter into a minute description of his works in Spain; but I cannot dispense with myself from observing, that he is capable of expressing his ideas with uncommon elegance and delicacy: Some of the characters of his Baptist, some Magdalens and Madonas, which I have met, are equal in grace and tenderness of expression to the best heads of *Guido* and *Guercino*: I confess my surprize was great in discovering him in a character,

character, which was new and unknown to me before I went to Spain; at the same time in a private closet at the Escorial, where there is an altar belonging to the Prior, and to which admittance is rarely allowed, I felt equal surprize and delight at being shewn a small Holy Family by *Michael Angelo Bonarota*, finished and coloured to a miracle. In this inestimable little piece the face of the Madona is of a most singular cast, such as I had never before seen; extremely beautiful, but not by the result of the correctest symmetry of features; for the face is lengthened beyond its proportion, by which and other means, with a peculiar action of the eyes and muscles an

I. expression

expression is obtained, which at the same time that it exceeds nature, does not violate it; appearing to be at once above, and yet within it.

Young *Ribera*, though suffering the extreme of poverty, felt within himself such powers of genius, as were superior to depression, and in the school of *Ribalta* meditated an excursion to Rome, there to receive the last finishings of education in his art: Thither he repaired, and, enlisting himself in the academy, pursued his studies with an industry, which knew no remission, but whilst he was in pursuit of the scanty necessaries for the demands of life; these he obtained by the sale of some of his sketches and drawings  
in

in the academy. Without friends and at times almost without food or raiment, he persisted in his course with a stubborn virtuous perseverance, which nothing could divert from its object; if such a mind and imagination are found to delight in images of savage greatness and terrific sublimity, it is little to be wondered at, and a greater proof of his excellence cannot be given, than the high estimation, in which his pieces of the character above-mentioned continue to be held, notwithstanding the false effeminate delicacy of modern taste and fashion in pictures, now prevailing in England, which discourages all attempts at tragedy in painting and  
shrinks

shrinks from an *Ugolino* and *Prometheus* with as much dread and horror, as a modern petite maitresse would from the spectacle of a bull-fight. Such an academician as young *Ribera* could not long remain undistinguished in the mass of common students; Rome was not a place, where merit could be long hidden, nor was his merit of a sort, that could be concealed any where; his fellow-students and teachers soon discovered the superiority of his talents, and *par excellence* gave him the name of *Il Spagnoletto*; and a certain Cardinal, one day passing in his coach, observed a tattered figure employed in painting a board, affixed to the outside of one of the ordinary

houses in the streets of Rome; the youth and wretchedness of the spectacle engaged his pity, and the singular attention, with which he pursued his work, attracted his curiosity. It was *Il Spagnoletto* in the act of earning his bread, of which his appearance made evident he was absolutely in want. The Cardinal called him to his coach-side and, ordering him to his palace, immediately domiciliated the lucky youth. Here he lived in ease and affluence; but that virtue, which the frowns of fortune could not shake, was no proof against her caresses: Young *Ribera* became a slave to pleasures, of which he had not before even speculative enjoyment; but  
his

his virtue, though repulsed, was not subdued; his apostacy from the purity of his native principles pressed upon his conscience, and the ruin, which his genius was now menaced with, alarmed his pride of nature; with one gallant effort he burst the shackles of temptation, and, fallying out of the palace of the Cardinal, reassumed his dignity of soul, and poverty at once: Perhaps the history of human nature will afford few examples of so strong an act.

He had now all his former miseries to encounter with the aggravating contrast of experienced delights: In addition to all these he was to suffer the reproaches of his protector, who, occasionally meet-

ing him, upbraided his ingratitude in the severest terms: The virtuous Spaniard made a suitable reply, and, cheering himself with the resources of his art and the applauses of his conscience, persisted in his poverty. The clear obscure of *Caravagio* became his favourite manner, and in the language, tho' not with the motives, of Doctor Young's Zanga he might have said that *horrors now were not displeasing to him*. The meagre encouragement he found in Rome determined him to seek his better fortune at Naples: For this place he set out in a ragged jacket, having pledged his capa for a viaticum. In Naples he let himself out to a common painter for hire: This man

however had great humanity and some science; the abilities of *Il Spagnoletto* surprized him; he clearly saw how superior his talents were to the low occupation he had engaged in; a further acquaintance opened to him the singular virtues and good qualities he was possessed of, and he soon conceived the design of converting his servant into his son-in-law: He had an only child, a daughter; the girl being exceedingly handsome, and the father very rich, an abundance of suitors presented themselves to the choice of her parents, but, the moment which Providence had decreed for rewarding the virtues of poor *Ribera* being now arrived, all their pretensions availed nothing

with the father, who had determined upon his part and, calling *Ribera* aside, proposed at once to bestow his daughter with the better part of his means immediately upon him; a proposition so totally above expectation or hope staggered his belief, and he entreated his master not to make his misery and ill fortune the object of his raillery and ridicule; he was at a loss to think what presumption could have escaped him to merit this rebuke; he was not conscious of having conceived or entertained a thought, that aspired to a match so totally above his reach; with some difficulty the father conquered his incredulity, when young *Ribera*, transported with joy and gratitude,

gratitude, was in one moment from being the poorest made the happiest of beings. Behold him now occupying a whole floor the palace of the Viceroy, with all the comforts of life and the conveniencies of his art in abundance around him ; at the height of his fame, in request of all the great and eminent in Europe, and honoured by his Holiness the Pope with the knighthood of Christ. A new choice of subjects now presented themselves to the world, and people saw, with a terror partaking of delight, martyrdoms, executions and torments expressed to the truth, nay in some cases even aggravated beyond it : He selected all that sacred or classic history afford-

ed in the terrible ; all that the pagan theology or the poetical hell had represented to appall the guilty was to be found on the canvasses of *Ribera* ; a martyred San Bartolome, stript to the muscles, became a study for anatomists : Cato of *Utica* in the act of tearing out his bowels brought the horror of self-murder to the eyes and hearts of men : Hercules struggling in the throes of death and all the tortured in the fabulous realm of Pluto were now exhibited, like Eschylus's furies on the stage of Athens, and in some instances with the same effects ; for it is related, that a certain lady of Amsterdam named *Jacoba de Uffel* having miscarried upon seeing some paintings of Sisyphus, Tantalus and Ixion by *Ribera*, her husband's

band's gallantry induced him to dispose of them, and being carried into Italy they were purchased on the part of His Catholic Majesty and transported into Spain, where they are now preserved in the palace of the Buen Retiro. Many other pictures of this master were collected by the Viceroy of Naples for the King and also for particular Grandees and brought into Spain: In the royal collections of Madrid and the Escorial there are many; the great altar-piece of the church of Santa Isabel on the subject of the Conception is by *Ribera*, and the head of the Virgin is the portrait of his daughter. He died at Naples in 1656, aged 67 years, leaving only one child above mentioned,

tioned, whom he married to a man of distinction in Naples. He left behind him a tract in manuscript on the principles of the art of painting, which is reported to have been a most elaborate and excellent composition.

*Luis Tristan*, a disciple of *Dominico Greco*, was born in a small village near the city of Toledo: He certainly exceeded his master in correctness of drawing and purity of taste. It does not appear that *Dominico* had any of the jealousies of his art about him in his treatment of *Tristan*, whilst he was under his tuition; on the contrary he took early notice of his talents, and brought them into practice and display with all the advantages in his power to give; the monasteries

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of

of Spain, as I have elsewhere observed, were in that period considerable patrons of the elegant arts of painting and sculpture; most of these religious Societies are rich, and those, whose funds did not enable them to set the artists at work, found benefactors amongst the great, whose devotion or vanity disposed them to beautify and enrich the churches and altars, which they frequented, and where such donations would be accepted in the way of atonement, or recorded as acts of voluntary piety and meritorious munificence: The monks of La Silla in the neighbourhood of Toledo had applied to *Dominico Greco* for a picture of our Lord's last supper to be painted for  
 their

their refectory, in the manner that *Titiano* had adorned that in the monastery of San Lorenzo. *Dominico* being obliged to decline the commission on account of indisposition, recommended his young pupil *Luis Tristan* to the undertaking; the monks accepted his services, and upon delivery of the picture were with reason satisfied with the performance; nothing remained to be adjusted but the price, and the demand of the artist being for 200 ducats was deemed exorbitant; the Fathers referred themselves to *Dominico*, who being then in a fit of the gout was put into a coach and conveyed to the convent; as soon as he arrived there and had deliberately surveyed the piece, he  
turned

turned suddenly to his disciple and with a menacing tone and air, lifting up his crutch, exclaimed against *Tristan* for disgracing his art and all who professed it, by demanding 200 ducats for the picture in question. The triumph of the Fathers upon this testimony of their umpire, so decidedly as it seemed in their favour, was however soon reversed, when *Dominico* directed his disciple to roll up the picture and take it away with him to Toledo, for that he should not leave it there for five hundred ducats; then, launching out into rapturous encomiums on the performance, he began to put his decision into execution: Vexation and surprize now took possession of the convicted monks,

monks, their murmuring and complaints were changed to intercessions, and, after sufficient atonement on their part, the money was paid and the picture surrendered to the refectory and oblivion: Certainly it is a capital composition, and whenever the Fathers shall repent of the bargain made by their predecessors, there is not a collector in Europe but will give them their principal with ample interest upon their purchase. *Tristan* died at Toledo in the year 1649, at the age of fifty-four, with the honour of being imitated by the celebrated *Velazquez*, who declared himself his admirer and, quitting the precepts of *Pacheco*, professedly modelled himself after  
the

the stile and manner of *Luis Trif-*  
*tan*.

*Juan Baptista Mayno*, a monk of the order of the Predicadores, was a contemporary of *Trifstan* and a disciple also of *Dominico Greco*: In the convent of San Pedro the Martyr at Toledo there is an altarpiece in four compartments representing the subjects of the four Pasquas, viz. the Nativity, the Resurrection, the Descent of the Holy Ghost and the Mystery of the Holy Trinity: There is in the same church a Saint Peter weeping, of which many copies are dispersed through Spain; an affecting natural idea of that zealous yet offending disciple in the moment of recollection and remorse. The college

college of San Estevan at Salamanca contains some works of this master, whose excellence as an artist and whose irreproachable sanctity gained him universal esteem and promoted him to the honour of being drawing-master to Philip the IV th, who was not only a lover of the arts but a proficient. *Mayno* was employed by the King at the palace of the Buen Retiro, where he painted a fine battle-piece, in which the Conde Duque de Olivares is introduced animating the troops to action by presenting to their view a portrait of King Philip, a brilliant thought and a courtly compliment to both parties. *Mayno* died in his sixtieth year,

year, in the city of Toledo, in 1654.

In the same year died *Pedro Nuñez* a native of Madrid, of whose celebrity there needs no better testimony, than his being one in the following groupe of artists, recorded by the famous *Lope de la Vega* in the following lines :

*Pero porque es razon que participe  
L'el Laurel la pintura generosa  
Juntos llegaron a la cumbre hermosa  
Sulcando varios mares.*

*Vincencio, Eugenio, Nuñez y Lan-  
chares.*



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